

# SLAP

Issue 94

Aug 2019

FREE



**SLAP** Supporting Local Arts & Performers



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# SLAP

Aug 2019 MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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We have had an amazing July of fun, festivals, good weather, good music and wonderful vibes all round, and August is looking just as exciting!

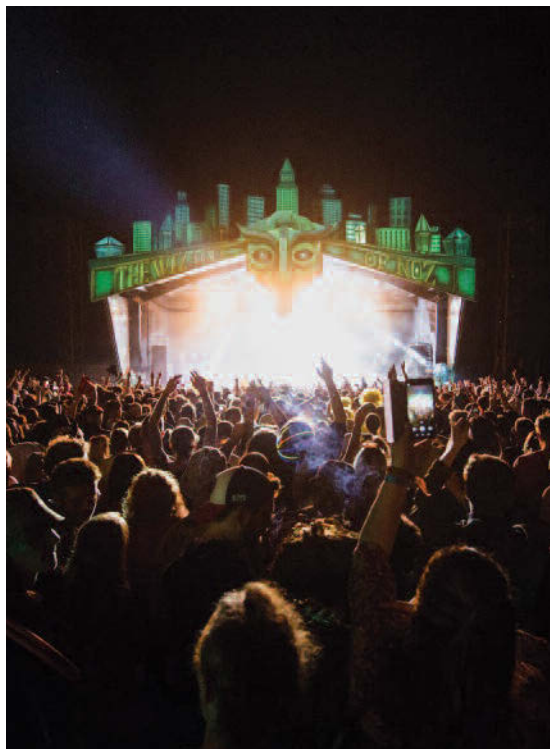
There is plenty to look out for in August locally as you will have seen in previous issues. This month we look at Artrix Vintage Festival, Kidderminster Fringe and the Worcester Show. But with so much to choose from you'll be spoilt for choice. Rock fans will flock to the Drunken Monkey Festival, Blues fans to the Old Bush and Gloucester, Folk fans to Bromyard and Moseley. The more eclectic amongst you will need to make some hard choices, whether it's urban, outdoor, in the sticks or town centres, it's all happening in August.

If like us you were at Upton Blues, Ledbury Fringe or West Fest you can look back and relive those memories within these pages. Or if you were at Nozstock (see our front cover image) you can look back with us in a different way by watching the videos produced by Little Charley and Will from Mahoosive Events. We'll be releasing these via our social media channel in the coming weeks. They include footage from the festival including band performances, interviews and sound bites.

It's not all about music of course as Worcester Beer festival will vouch for, but it has to be said that in recent years it's encouraging to see beer festivals and food festivals booking live, but more importantly, original acts too!

As always at this time of year there is plenty going on the arts, dance, spoken word and theatre including many activities for the kids this school holidays.

*Fest-Ed*



Cover image: By Charlie Rimmer taken at this years Nostock



Spotify

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## Axe's still to grind

It's emerged that Nashville-based guitar makers Gibson's filing for bankruptcy last year was 'merely for restructuring purposes' after failed attempts to branch out into 'lifestyle' branding and audio electronics. There were the usual worries that the electric guitar itself faced an existential threat as tastes move towards hip-hop and electronica - but the company has vowed to refocus on its core business of musical instruments...

## Fayre Play

Organisers of Worcester's 2019 **Victorian Fayre** are looking for more performers for the event which takes place from 28 November to 1 December this year and regularly attracts more than 100,000 people to Worcester over the weekend. They're are inviting choirs, bands, dancers, soloists and ensembles to perform 30 or 60 minute sets on multiple stages in Cathedral Square - more info at [christmas@worcester.gov.uk](mailto:christmas@worcester.gov.uk)

## Cafe Blessed

Nearly £50,000 has been raised to fund the return of the popular **Cafe Bliss** which was based at **Worcester Arts Workshop** until last year. Manager **Amanda Hickling** said that they wanted to further the ethos of Cafe Bliss which hosted events supportive of local groups and charities, and was also a strong and safe environment for the LGBT+ community.

## Listen up, Its whispering Bob!

**Bewdley Festival** have announced they'll be hosting an **'Evening of Conversation with Bob Harris and Danny Baker'** on Wednesday 16 October. Former prog-rock guru 'Whispering' Bob made his mark in the 70s on Radio Luxemburg and the Old Grey Whistle Test and now promotes new country music on BBC Radio 2, while Danny Baker has endless tales about music, broadcasting and football despite courting controversy in recent times - more at [bewdleyfestival.org.uk](http://bewdleyfestival.org.uk)

## Proclaimers proclamation

**Worcester Operatic and Dramatic Society Youth Section (WODYS)** were chuffed to receive a good luck message prior to their performance of 'Back to the 80s' at the **Swan Theatre** from Charlie and Craig Reid of The Proclaimers - as I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles) is one of the songs featured! The show runs from 30 July to 3 August - more details from **Huntingdon Hall** 01905-611427

## Except for drummers...

Researchers in British Columbia, Canada have found that music students who've learnt to play an instrument are the equivalent of a year better in other subjects such as maths, science and English than their non-musical classmates. Skills learnt in music lessons such as reading music, hand-eye-mind coordination, listening and team skills, and discipline to practise enhanced the students' overall education...

## Summer of '69

**Worcestershire Pride** have invited people who turn up at this year's event to wear fancy dress to fit the '1969' theme marking the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York and the birth of the LGBT+ movement. Spokesman **Matt Skilbeck** said that the event had increased in support and size in 2017 and 2018 and this year would include a parade from Deansway to the Cornmarket, the location for this year's celebration. Organisers are appealing for more sponsors for the event - email [worcestershirepridesponsorship@aol.com](mailto:worcestershirepridesponsorship@aol.com)

## Recon' the ReCon

Ideas are afoot to revitalise the former Conservative Club in Church Street Malvern - previously known as **ReCon** - primarily as a business meeting space, but also with programmes of comedy and film at weekends. Local entrepreneur **Chris Winstanley** has plans to reopen it under his brandname **Malvern Radio** as a scenic alternative to the usual meeting, training and entertaining venues in cities such as Birmingham - fair point...

## Back from their Hollies

Former **Hollies** frontman **Allan Clarke** has clinched a record deal at the age of 77 after teaching himself to use music-making programme Garageband - and is releasing a new album of new songs called *Resurgence*. He's also been in discussion with former Hollies founder member **Graham Nash** about a collaboration - though they won't be able to call themselves the Hollies, as there's a current outfit using the brandname. Clarke said 'I have to smile because there isn't an original player in that band...'

## Burst Balloon

Some sad news that one of SLAP's favourite bands, **Crystal Balloon**, reviewed many times on these pages, announced last week that they'd decided to call it a day. They leave two impeccable EPs of alt rock and Americana, "*Hurricane*" and "*People*", a dynamic live video recorded at The Lantern in Bristol and a wealth of excellent live performance memories. No news yet on the new projects of the bands members, but we'll be following this story closely.

## Jump on the GR-V111 train

**GR-V111** are a vocal harmony group from Kidderminster and Worcester who raise money for The West Midland Air Ambulance. They have raised £9,500 of this year's target of £10,000 so far. You can see them at **Bewdley Brewery's Street Food** Saturday on August 24th. They are also hoping to record a new live CD in November. More info can be found at [www.grv111.com](http://www.grv111.com)

## 'Raptor'ous applause...

Following on from the recent review of Raptor's stunning *Escapism* album, the band are set to release a fan made video taken from the band's launch at **Rough Trade** in Bristol. The trio encouraged attendees to film the entire launch party on the 17/3/19 and send the results to the band, drummer Adam then mixed the audio, whilst frontman Kurt was charged with editing the footage into a cohesive video, the results are set to unveiled on August 2nd, so keep an eye on the band's social media for more details. [www.facebook.com/Raptorthetheband/](http://www.facebook.com/Raptorthetheband/) You can also catch the band for yourselves as part of Worcester Music Festival at Annie's on Saturday 14th September.

# First 100 Acts Confirmed for Worcester Music Festival's 2019 Extravaganza

Organisers of **Worcester Music Festival** have announced the first 50 artists that will be playing at this year's event in Worcester City Centre from 13th-15th September.

The festival has been running since 2008 and is organised entirely by volunteers. It has seen thousands of acts from near and far flocking to the city to perform original music in dozens of venues – and has raised tens of thousands of pounds for different charities. This year's chosen charity, as voted for by the WMF committee from charities who submitted applications, is the **Worcester Foodbank**.

With music workshops for all ages, as well as live performances in over 20 Worcester City venues, there's sure to be something for everyone over the weekend.

This year, the first 50 announcement brings a few old favourites, including the return of **Evilwitch** – a well-known Worcester band who last played together in 2012, who many locals will remember fondly. **The Whipjacks** bring along what is best described as 'pirate punk' with their driving rhythms and 'partial nudity'. As well as the familiar old faces, Worcester will be welcoming some new and, in some cases, controversial ones.

Banned from Glastonbury for their satirical cry to 'kill a Tory' the self-styled '2-bit Punk band' **Kildren** are appearing for their first ever Worcester gig. WMF organisers are keen to point out they do not advocate violence towards any person or political party, of course.



Kildren

Spanning all genres, ages and cultures, the 12th Worcester Music Festival will be here soon, and as **Nigel Clark** from Dodgy says: "This is a great festival with an amazing amount of artists giving up their time for free. It's a chance to spend the weekend exploring a wide range of music, while taking in the many splendours of the city."

You can keep up to date with the ever-growing line-up and info at [worcestermusicfestival.co.uk](http://worcestermusicfestival.co.uk), on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



Nigel Clark



## Woo Fest Update

More than 400 music lovers attended the fifth annual **Woo Fest**, held over July 5 and 6 at **The Drum and Monkey** pub, Upton-upon-Severn. A packed line-up of bands from across the area performed over the weekend as they raised £20,384 for **St Richard's Hospice**.

**Luke Simons**, festival organiser said: "We are delighted to have raised more than £20,000 for St Richard's Hospice. We never dreamt of hitting that figure – it's just mind-blowing."

The dates have been set for next year's festival, to run from July 3 to 4 and a Christmas event will be held on Sunday, December 22 at the **Marrs Bar**, Worcester. 'Christmas Woo' will be a festive party featuring a line-up of bands. Tickets for both will be on sale soon. To find out more about Woo Fest visit [www.woo-fest.com](http://www.woo-fest.com)



Vincent Flatts Blues Band

**Clik Clik** is warming up for a mega busy month out in the festival fields! Firstly, visitors to the incredible immersive world of **Boomtown Fayre** can find the kooky close knit family at 'Pie n' Tash' in Copper County getting up to much mischief and



wrongdoings from 9th-11th. Then it's off to calmer pastures in the Welsh Mountains with **Green Man Festival**, where you can come and find the Animal Allies based on Welsh folklore, hanging around Caravan Mirela and interact with them.



Usually this month we would be looking towards the wonderful **Kidderminster Arts Festival**. Things have changed for KAF. It's now **KAFF** (an extra F for food) so **Kidderminster Arts & Food Festival** and its moved to October. Look out for info about it all in the autumn. **The Kidderminster Fringe Festival** is still happening during August - on sat 17th & 18th with live music and arts so check their social media pages for info.

## Shire artist selected for residency in Japan

A Herefordshire glass artist has been selected for an important residency in Japan. **Nina Casson McGarva** from Ross on Wye has been chosen for **The Naked Craft Project/Shin-Nagata Glass Residence 2019**. She is only the fourth artist to be picked since the award was established in 2011.



Nina creates abstract glass work based on nature. "I have always admired Japanese crafts and I think going in the autumn would be the perfect time for inspiration," says Nina, whose residency takes place during the autumn.

The project curator is **Nobayasu Yoshida** a glass artist living and working in Kobe and is run in partnership with the **Contemporary Glass Society** in the UK.

"Each year one artist from the Contemporary Glass Society is selected to spend one month in Kobe creating a body of work and experiencing life in Japan," explains Sue Purser Hope, Chair of the Contemporary Glass Society. "It is a project that aims to make connections on a local and global scale via contemporary craftsmanship, and make cultural exchange through the works of artists from the UK and Japan."

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## Dancefest this August

Dancefest's weekly classes have stopped for the summer - but don't worry, you'll still be able to dance with them! They're delighted to be part of **KidzPlay**, where they'll be leading fun dance sessions for children at **Worcester Community Trust's Hubs**.



You can also take part in their *Spreading the Love* summer school for all ages in Worcester, Tenbury and Hereford.

And look out for their **Chance to Dance** Company at the **Worcester Show** at **Gheluvelt Park** on Sunday 11 August. They'll be popping up and surprising you - and may even get you to join in with an impromptu disco!

Their autumn term starts on 16 September and early bird booking starts this month. Coming up are a whole new bunch of classes and some very special guest workshops in **Pilates, Postural Alignment, Animal Flow, Tai Chi** and **Relaxation**.

Find out about all this and more at [dancefest.co.uk](http://dancefest.co.uk) or give them a ring on 01905 611199.

## Artist wellbeing

On Tuesdays throughout August at the **Worcester Arts Workshop**, adults can participate in **Open Space WellBeing Studios**. This group is aimed at individuals who have a mental health diagnosis from the community, supported living environments or those who are marginalised and isolated or suffering from depression/anxiety. Facilitated by a qualified Art Therapist, the group will all work independently on their own projects whilst being supported and inspired by each other. Materials provided and this group is free of charge thanks to funding from **The National Lottery** and Awards for All.



## Accessible arts scheme at the Courtyard

The Courtyard have launched a new scheme to make the arts more accessible to local community groups. Recognising that there are many reasons why people might not be able to engage with the arts, whether that be financial, geographical or many other reasons, **The Courtyard Community Group** scheme was established this month to make sure the arts are accessible to everyone, giving local community organisations the opportunity to offer their users free theatre and cinema tickets at the venue. Other benefits include heavily discounted offers and notice of future "Pay What You Like" events, plus invitations to special events including private views and launch parties.



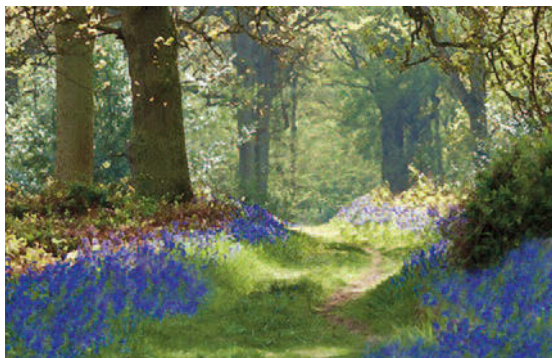
*"This is a fantastic opportunity for us to extend our arts provisions to members of our community who may have previously been excluded from participating in the arts. We are really excited to be working alongside local organisations who already do such fantastic work with some of the more disadvantaged members of the community."* Said **Robyn Barratt**, Marketing and Audience Development Manager.

For more info or to sign up to The Courtyard's Community Group scheme visit [courtyard.org.uk/the-courtyard-community-group](http://courtyard.org.uk/the-courtyard-community-group).

## Arts at Number 8 Pershore

**Portfolio 18 - 'Variations on 18'** - This group exhibition is varied in subject matter and medium, including portraits, landscapes and still life in watercolours, acrylics and collage. Compositions range from abstract to figurative whilst sharing the common connection to the number eighteen and what it means to each artist. Until 10th August

**Hilary Roberts - 'Flowers, Fields & Forests'** - A varied collection of images showing vibrant spring blooms in close-up, landscapes with poppies and wildflowers, typical English gardens, bluebell woods, autumn scenes and strikingly colourful autumn leaves. The pictures originated in the camera and were then worked on by the artist to enhance the image. 19th August - 4th September



## Sara Hayward

This month, visitors to Worcester Cathedral will have the chance to see two exhibitions featuring new work by painter Sara Hayward RCA. Worcester based artist Sara, who describes herself as a contemporary British colourist, studied fine art at the Ruskin School of Drawing & Fine Art, Oxford University, then printmaking at the Royal College of Art, London. Printmaking still influences the way she works.

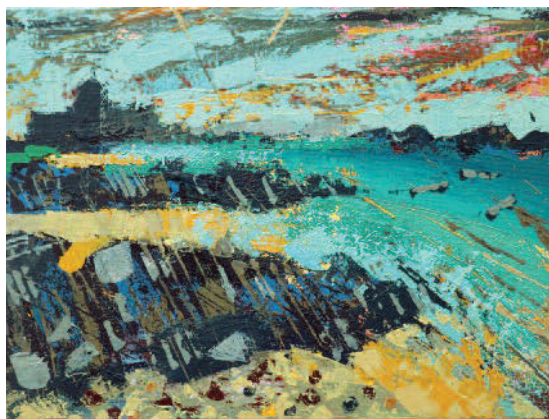


### Cutting corners: colour works

A series of semi abstract, meditative tondi (round paintings) will be hung in the main body of the Cathedral in an exhibition. Originally inspired by olive trees outside the Berardo museum in Lisbon the double sided tondi are an attempt to capture the pulsating rhythms and energy of nature.

### Pilgrimage: an inner journey (Iona and beyond)

An exhibition of expressive paintings inspired by the Scottish island of Iona plus abstract colour works inviting meditative inner thought journeys. Hayward revisits the seascape theme in small, intimate expressive paintings. Whilst some of these were inspired by a trip to the spiritual capital of Iona, others capture the wild, windswept, natural spirit of Cape Cornwall.



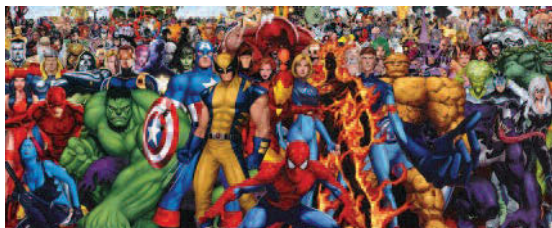
Further examples of original paintings of Sara's work can be seen alongside Paul Powis' work via: [www.powishayward.co.uk](http://www.powishayward.co.uk)

**For Arts Submissions  
News & Events email Kate at  
[arts@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:arts@slapmag.co.uk)**

## Summer arts activities for young people

### Artrix, Bromsgrove

**MARVEL US! Monday 5th-Thursday 8th, 10am to 4.30pm.** Suitable for ages 6 to 18 years and open to all abilities and levels of experience, this fun week of musical theatre, run by **Artrix Youth Theatre** is inspired by Marvel Comics. Participants will use song, movement and drama to build confidence, skills and release their inner hero! With the help of youth theatre leaders, participants will perform for family and friends on the final day of the workshop.



**Theatre Explorers - Mon 12th-Wed 14th, 10am to 4.30pm.** Young people aged 14 to 19 years will explore Theatre - from page to stage - led by Artrix Associate Artist **Naomi Coleman**. This three day course will explore Theatre texts, techniques and culminate in a performance. Naomi said; *"Theatre Explorers Summer School 3 day workshop is designed to introduce, develop and nurture young creatives who are interested in the process of the actor. Working with like-minded people, exploring and sharing ideas, taking text from page to stage, this really is an insight into the creative roots of acting!"*

Each course costs £100 per person and £75 each for siblings.

For further information or to book a place at an Summer School, contact Box Office on 01527 577330 or visit [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk).

### Worcester Arts Workshop

**Circus Creative Workshop for ages 5-11 on 2nd** - Create your own greatest show using craft and recycling materials! Whether it is a circus tent, clowns or animals you will be in charge!

**Summer Saturday - 11am to 1pm, Saturday 3rd.** An informal crafty morning for families, it's the perfect chance to grab a coffee and join in with Rock Painting for just £2 per child.

**Summer Creative Camp for ages 5-7, 5th-9th August,** painting, drawing, textile, pottery and much more this course is suitable for ages 5-11 years.

**A Big Canvas Gustav Klimt workshop on 13th ages 14-18**

Create a big canvas painting in one day, enjoy being experimental and creative with paint, bring your own ideas and use ideas based on the painter Gustav Klimt.



**Story Bricks pottery workshops for ages 5-8 & 9-12 on 27th**

- A fun and creative session to learn about slab building and create your own story scenes and figures using air drying clay

Looking ahead to September, booking is now open for all creative courses at **Worcester Arts Workshop**, from pottery to painting, ceramics to mask making – come along to learn a new skill or perfect an old one.

For further details visit [worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk)

## Street Arts Festival Brings Dance, Music & Graffiti Art to Worcester Arts Workshop

This August, Break Mission brings an exciting one day **Festival of Street Arts to Worcester Arts Workshop**.



On Saturday 10 August the workshop will come to life **Break Mission x Ill Skills** bringing Hip-Hop culture to the centre of Worcester. It's a full on takeover with Dance Battles, Live Music, DJ's Graffiti Art and FREE workshops.

Workshops include, Breaking (better known as Break Dancing), Song writing, DJing and Graffiti Art.

Learn Top Rocks, Get Downs, Footwork and Freezes from Break Mission's Director, FootLoose in a Break Dancing workshop and up and coming vocal star Tarju Le Sano Doperes K.I.D will be running a song writing workshop, focussing on expressing emotions in lyrics. You can learn to mix and scratch your favourite tunes and find out if you have what it takes to become a legendary DJ, with DJ Silence and you can create your own Graffiti name artwork in the art studios.

Local talented Graffiti Artists will be bringing some eye popping artwork life with amazing colours and some classic Hip-Hop beats in the Courtyard.

Workshops start from 10am, with live music, dance, open mic and Beatboxing taking place throughout the day, also a Breakdance battle in which the champion wins a £200 prize!

This event has been kindly funded by The Virtual School and entry is free! Everyone is welcome to come along to the Street Arts Festival for a real hip-hop experience.

For further info visit [www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk).

# BEWDLEY FESTIVAL OCTOBER 2019

## THE AMERICAN EPIC WEEKEND

a unique event centred on  
THE AWARD WINNING FILMS  
with Screenings, Q & A with Film Maker,  
Lectures by top music producers  
Live Music – Exhibitions – And Much More  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October

ELIZA CARTHY  
“EAST”  
with Martin Carthy & Friends  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October



ORPHAN COLOURS AND  
PETE WILLIAMS BAND  
A double bill of two top UK bands  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October



Full programme and Tickets  
[www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk](http://www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk)

## Our Man in the Moone seeks performers

Herefordshire based charity, **Everybody Dance**, has a callout for local people who would like to get involved in a new performance, **'Our Man in the Moone'**, with roles in aerial dance, movement, stilt walking, as a narrator and backstage support.

No prior experience is necessary, as a series of summer workshops will teach people fun new skills for the production. The performance of *'Our Man in the Moone'* takes place at Whitbourne Village Hall's playing field on 31st August 2019 at 4:15pm. There are taster workshops at Longlands Farm, where people of all ages (8+) and abilities (it's open to disabled and non-disabled participants) can have a go at defying gravity in aerial dance sessions on 3rd August from 10:30am - 12pm and 10th August 3:30pm - 5pm.

**Everybody Dance** also needs help from those with backstage skills: project leader, **Rachel Freeman** says, *"From making costumes and sets to stewarding the performance and serving the tea, anything that people can offer would be appreciated."* Email Rachel at [rfeverybodydance@gmail.com](mailto:rfeverybodydance@gmail.com) text or phone: 07870 429528 to find out more about getting involved.



The project has been funded by the **National Lottery Heritage Fund** as an opportunity to explore a hidden treasure of Worcestershire; an amazing piece of science fiction that was published almost 400 years ago. Written by **Francis Godwin**, Bishop of Hereford, resident and estate owner of Whitbourne village, *'The Man in the Moone'* was the first - and most extraordinary - work of science fiction in English, published in 1638, after the Bishop's death and under a pseudonym. It was a daring plot for its time, featuring a Catholic protagonist called Domingo Gonsales, who creates a contraption powered by geese to journey to the moon, discovering what appears to be a utopian civilisation there. The story was mostly forgotten about until very recently, when a local brewery rediscovered it and named a beer after the strange tale!

**Everybody Dance** is working with a local historian, writer, stiltwalker, dance practitioner and storyteller to take *'The Man in the Moone'* story back into the community. The project includes a book group, tours of local history and archives provision, dance and storytelling workshops with mainstream and special schools, publication of new version of the story in the parish magazine and a collection of short stories, poems and pictures about the project.

The project has been made possible through money raised by National Lottery players. **Everybody Dance** has received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £10,100 to undertake this exciting heritage programme, which takes place in and around Whitbourne village in north Herefordshire.



**Everybody Dance** is a charity based in the village of Whitbourne that specialise in working with people of all abilities and ages and bringing them together through dance-based projects. Whitbourne Community Shop are also supporting *'Our Man in the Moone'* along with **The Herefordshire Community Foundation**, **The Elmley Foundation** and **Susan Bulmer**.

# BRIGHT FIELD

autumn 2019

A CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON  
IN SONG AND SPOKEN WORD.  
FROM THE BORDERS AND BEYOND

FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER  
THE GLOBE, HAY-ON-WYE, £15

**sam lee:** NATURE, TRADITION AND MODERNITY  
**emma daman:** PSYCHEDELIC EXCURSIONS  
**RICHARD KING:** TARKS ASCENDING  
**WEIRDSHIRE DJs:** SPECTRAL SEASONAL SOUNDS

 Nelson Allan  
Night Out

# Suz Winspear

August is here – time for long, warm, drowsy holiday days - or for dodging the rain and trying to find something interesting to do indoors. It all depends on the weather! My own memories of childhood family holidays mostly involve sitting in dank beach-huts watching the rain fall on dreary beaches in some of England's least exciting seaside resorts, but children these days probably expect a bit more excitement. If you're going on holiday this year, I hope you all have a really good time!

If, on the other hand, you are staying at home, then there's an exciting new event taking place over the Bank Holiday, 24th-26th August. Not only will the annual Artists' **Open Studios** event be taking place, but the **Royal Porcelain Works** in Worcester will be taken over by the **Art and Performance Weekend**. Visual art – including painting, illustration, photographs and a caricaturist doing live portraits – ceramics, glass, theatre from **Vamos Theatre**, **White Socks Theatre** and **Brain Cocaine**, workshops, music and, most importantly for me – Spoken Word! Poets and storytellers will be performing every day, throughout the day, including past and present **Worcestershire Poets Laureate**, the winners of this year's **Flash Fiction** and **Poetry Slams**, and a fabulous line-up of some of the very best poets in the region. This will be a fantastic three days – well worth a visit!

And here are your upcoming Worcestershire Spoken Word events for August.

**Thursday 1st August – Bewdley Fringe Spoken Word - at The Retreat**, Load Street, Bewdley Poetry and Spoken Word with special guest **Heather Wastie** (former Worcestershire Poet Laureate) Open mic slots available – sign up on the night! 7pm for sign up, event begins at 7.30pm. Free admission.

**Thursday 6th August – The Long and the Short of It – at Caffé Bolero** St Nicholas Street, Worcester Prose and poetry, with short-form and longer performance slots. 6pm, £3 admission.

**Thursday 13th August – SpeakEasy - at Paradiddles**, 61/61a Sidbury WR1 3HU Yes! A BRAND NEW VENUE for the regular monthly event - eclectic poetry from a wide range of local poets. The featured performer for August is our brand-new



Worcestershire Poet Laureate, **Charley Barnes**. 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 . . .) Come and see us in our new location! £3 admission, 7.30pm

**Wednesday 7th August – Poetry and a Pint at the Third Space, Worcester Arts Workshop** A relaxed evening of poetry hosted by the inimitable **Spoz**. Open mic slots available – sign up on the night! 7pm. Free entry.

**Thursday 22nd August – 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 the extraordinary **R.M. Francis** – I saw him the last time he came, and it was an eye-opening evening! (The coffee and cake is good as well!) £3 admission. 6.30 – 8.30pm.

**Friday 16th August – The Long and the Short of It** (lunchtime event) – at **Waitrose**, 223 London Road WR5 2JG A daytime spoken word event in convivial surroundings. Come and share your poetry and stories! 12.30 – 2.30pm. Free admission.

**Saturday 24th – Monday 26th August – The Art and Performance Weekend – at the Royal Porcelain Works**. A whole weekend of art in all its manifestations! Visual art and illustration, ceramic and glass artists, workshops, theatre, music, performance art – and Spoken Word! Poets and performers every single day! 11am – 5pm. Free admission.

**Wednesday 28th August - 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 'Poison Perfumery'. 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.

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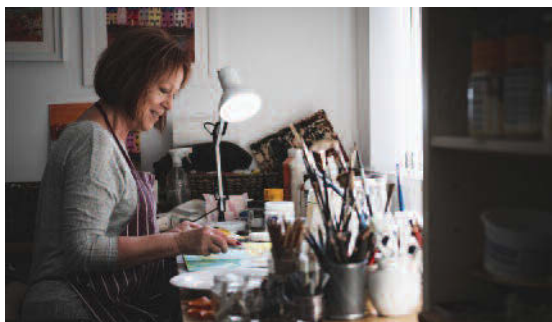
The August bank holiday weekend from 23 to 26 August sees the return of Worcestershire's largest free art event at over 80 locations around the county. Go behind normally closed doors, see the inside of artists' studios and talk to them about how they make their work, as **Worcestershire Open Studios** returns.



Now in its fifth year, the event is an artist-led initiative that offers art adventurers the chance to speak to local artists and see where they create their work. Over 180 artists are taking part and will be inviting visitors into their home studios, shared spaces and galleries.



**Sally Morgan**, one of the event's organisers and a participating artist, said, "Worcestershire Open Studios is such a fun-filled way to spend a bank holiday weekend. We've got more artists than ever taking part, so whether you're an art lover, a crafter, a budding young artist or have never set foot inside an art gallery, you'll definitely find something to interest you!"



Alongside fine art and abstract painters, visitors can discover art forms as diverse as glass fusing, printmaking on vintage machinery, handloom weaving, illuminated calligraphy, green



woodworking, textile art and ceramics. Entry to all venues is free and some artists will also be offering visitors the opportunity to watch demonstrations and have a go at their art form.

**Worcestershire Open Studios** is also the perfect opportunity to start your Christmas shopping early or to pick up unique, locally-made art for your home, as most artists will be offering work for sale.



Take a scenic drive through some of the more rural parts of Worcestershire or plan a walking route around the artistic hubs of Worcester and Malvern. Wherever you choose to go, you are guaranteed a very warm welcome and the opportunity to talk to artists and makers about their techniques and materials.

A full list of participating artists and an interactive map at [www.worcestershireopenstudios.org](http://www.worcestershireopenstudios.org) and in guides available in libraries, tourist information centres and other locations near you.

**Worcestershire Open Studios** is a not for profit organisation run by a group of artists who want to connect the region with local arts. The event was highly commended in the **Visit Worcestershire Awards of Excellence 2018** and is sponsored by the **Malvern School of Art** and **Beverly Gallery**.

Studio images top-bottom left to right: Catherine Adams, Frans Wesselman, Susan Birth and Tom Greenway

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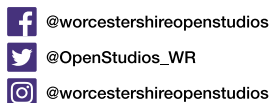
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## Bite Poetry Press book launch Paradiddles, Worcester | 20th July 2019

The summer's evening courtyard at **Paradiddles** is the perfect venue for the launch of the new poetry books "*Crossing the Line*" by **Holly Daffurn** and "*Not Under my breath*" by **Scott Cowley**. I've seen Holly and Scott before but this is something more urgent, slicker. **Bite Poetry Press** specialises in poetry that fights back, far from maudlin poems about loves lost, the poetry tonight is relentless, truthful and unstoppable.

After introductions by one of 'Bite's' founders **Gerard Hughes**, Scott and Holly start with taster sets to offer a flavour of what is to come. Scott describes himself as "*dealing with my demons through word-craft*" and he plunges the audience in to a world of addiction, difficulties and hope. As he states, Scott is "*open and speak[s] without fork tongues*." His words seem to rush towards the listener and I am transfixed by the gravity of every line. Yet, he is not too heavy as the craftsmanship of his rhymes and rhythms keep the subject matter in check.



Holly's taster set offers the beautiful "*You built me a Castle*" which contains the line "*I always imagined love to look more like freedom*" a truth, often acknowledged, that just because you live somewhere doesn't mean that it is home. This poem caught me off guard and I found myself thinking of all the places we feel we are not meant to be despite what we are told.



The break offers chance to buy books and sample Paradiddles' always delicious cakes and the second half allows the poets to really stretch their verbal legs. Scott's poetry is known for "*Opening doors for conversations into difficult subjects*." He offers a voice to mental illness and suffering that is so often shied away from. One of my favourite lines about a "*nameless and unseen*" homeless gentleman explains "*he carries his life in two plastic*



*bags*," using fantastic economy of words to show the true hardship of the situation. This is poetry that bites back.

Holly's set is split into six sections, as is her book. Her poems cross boundaries regardless of their nature and through language she wrestles with sexuality, bipolarism, cruelty and cultural difference. My personal favourite, "*So your wife*," focuses on other's obsessions with jealousy and what they think might happen. The witty line "*she doesn't see, that the biggest threat of all, is that I've got you by the soul, and not just by the balls*" makes me laugh out loud.

This is definitely not the last we'll see of **Bite Poetry Press** and I'm grateful. There are so many things that need to be said, so many truths that make others feel less alone. These poets are opening doors and squashing clichés. I can't wait to see what they'll do next.

Katie Harris

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# Artrix Vintage Festival

On Saturday 10th August, **Artrix** is going back in time for a one day **Vintage Festival** showcasing all things nostalgic.

The Rock n Roll fun begins with a screening of everyone's favourite 50s style musical, *Grease*, in the Main Auditorium at 11am. This is no ordinary screening of *Grease* as you'll get the chance to release your inner Pink Lady or T Bird with a special Sing-a-long version! High school romance, summer nights and leather jackets galore - tickets for Sing-a-long *Grease* are just £5 per person.

There's a whole host of activities throughout the day at the **Artrix Vintage Festival**. From 1pm there will be a Vintage Market Place in the foyer (free entry) where you'll find a treasure trove of stalls from the cutesy kitsch to the truly vintage.

Throughout the afternoon there will be gourmet burgers, tasty hotdogs and fresh buttery popcorn on offer from The Little Retro Kitchen. Hailing from Kidderminster, their locally sourced and delicious food is all served from The Little Retro Kitchen 1950s American style trailer.

At 3pm visitors can learn a variety of dance from the golden age of jazz, swing and lindy hop with the tutors from **All About Swing**. Places are £5

per person for a 45 minute class in the studio. No experience or dance partner is necessary, just lots of enthusiasm and energy!

The **vintage** vibe continues well into the evening with live music from **The Strays**, **The Fireballs** and **The Delray Rockets**.

**The Strays** are a band that push rock 'n' roll to its limit, fusing a multitude of genres to create a unique modern sound with a gritty, vintage edge. Described as No Doubt meets Imelda May, The Strays performance style is larger than life, interactive, and deliciously unpredictable!

Next up, family band, The Fireballs play late 1950's/early 60's Rock'n'Roll including hits from Cliff Richard and The Shadows, Billy Fury, Buddy Holly and many more. And finally, The Delray Rockets. Described as fuel injected Rockabilly their gig is set to be a high energy affair, playing some 'Old Chesnuts', revamped timely covers and some originals too.

Boogie on down to an evening of amazing live music, and take your new found dance moves to the floor, as the Main Auditorium will be set up with a flat floor so you can dance the night away! Doors open at 6pm and tickets are just £15 per person to see all three fantastic acts.

Join us for **Artrix Vintage Festival** on Saturday 10th August. Beehives and Brylcreem are encouraged, but not essential.

For full details and to pre-book for ticketed events visit [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)



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## Ledbury Fringe

### Multiple venues | 4th-14th July 2019

This small but perfectly formed festival takes place over eleven days at a dozen venues in the historic Herefordshire market town. It's an eclectic mixture of live music, dance, poetry, comedy and fine arts - and a farmers' market!

'Small but perfectly formed' could also be applied to the highly effective organising committee of **Miriam Baker**, **Ben Lewis** and **Peter Hill**, who are to be congratulated on putting together such a splendid range of high quality entertainment.

I paid two visits...

### Mirimakes Music "Ladies Night"

#### The Barn | Tuesday 9th July

Here's a few images of a wonderful night at **The Barn** in Ledbury, scene of the **Mirimakes Music "Ladies Night"** presentation.

Five women singer/songwriters at different stages of their careers provided a steady stream of memorable moments throughout the evening at this lovely venue.



From the youngest performer, **Georgia Shephard** whose understandable initial nervousness could not detract from the beauty of her voice, right through to the most experienced, cellist **Julia Palmer-Price**, whose eclectic set closed the main performance, the standard was maintained right through the evening.

The two artists whose music I did know of duly delivered two magnificent sets. Firstly, **Lucy Rebecca Horwood** (strongly



endorsed by my esteemed editor, Mark Hogan) then **Claire Boswell** kept us all enthralled with beautiful melodies, incisive lyrics, crystal clear voices and wonderful arrangements. The latter's self-titled album, rich in Celtic and country influences, greatly enhanced my journey home.

The whole thing was arranged by our presenter for the night, **Miriam Baker**, who having entertained us with a set of jazz standards earlier on, finally set the seal on the night with a glorious Irish ballad, sung acapella.



A mention too, for the three gentlemen who gave splendid accompaniment on the night - **Ben Lewis** on violin, **Ken Appleby** on guitar and particularly, the beautifully rich sound of **Ben Lee's** 19th century cello, accompanying **Lucy Horwood**, will long stay in the mind.

I do urge you to check out all the artists on the bill, either on YouTube or SoundCloud - you won't be disappointed.

## RISE

### The Feathers Hotel | Sat 13th July

There's something truly wonderful about alfresco gigs. This really was the most beautiful setting, with flower beds, shrubs, trees and a pergola covered in a massive grapevine as **RISE** previewed their upcoming album "*Strangers*" in the garden of **The Feathers Hotel** in Ledbury.

**RISE** is the performance name of **Jo Beth Young**, whose debut album "*An Abandoned Orchid House*" was released last year to much acclaim.

Not one to rest on her laurels, the new album is set for release later this year and all I can say is that if the band can reproduce on disc what we heard in that garden, the results will be mesmerising.

There's definitely a sense of anticipation and a distinct buzz about the audience before the set, due I'm sure to Young's appearance at last year's event, showcasing "*Orchid House*" - which people are keen to tell me was a wonderful event.

The music is difficult to categorise, there are strong folk elements but the sound also draws from ambient, progressive,



psych and neo-classical influences. And if this sounds to you like a recipe for the musical equivalent of Laura Ashley wallpaper, you'd be wrong. This was a distinctly muscular set, during which the pace, the flow of original ideas and their splendid delivery never slackened.

The band were uniformly excellent, with **Helen Ross** putting in a huge shift on violin, with the instrument scarcely seeming to leave her chin for the whole set and **Matt Rochford** giving an e-bow masterclass - rarely have I seen one used to such great effect. Normally a guitarist will pick one up for short passages, but tonight the small, shimmering blue box was front and centre on several tracks, both swelling the sound on the quicker tracks and providing an eerie presence when the pace dropped.

And then there's this voice, this wonderful voice... **Jo Beth Young** was using a double mic setup, the left one in the picture allowing her crystal clear vocals to drift across the evening air like smoke, while in complete contrast, the right hand one used a combination of distortion and chorus to give a jagged rasping tone and when they were used together the result was absolutely startling, pinning you back in your seat.

The time went by very quickly indeed and it's difficult, if not impossible to pick out highlights from this hour long set, but the lengthy title track from the new album, "Strangers", left the very appreciative audience breathless.

A magical evening, and I'm so glad I made the trip over.

*Geoffrey Head*



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## Tone Tanner Duels Tone Tanner

*Duels* is **Tone Tanner's** third full original solo album and as a long-performing local legend there is hope that *Duels* will be the breakthrough he so richly and rightly deserves.

Mainly recorded in Evesham with parts exotically put down under in Sydney and all masterfully mastered by the omnipresent **Dave Draper**, *Duels* is a labour of long-standing love as Tone plays all the instruments & sings with the exceptions mentioned below: and so to the songs.

*Inside Job* launches the album in blistering form with an anti neocon tirade somewhat Hendrix in style as Tone tight but loosely freestyles on the frets in fine style.

*Kill The Party* furthers the righteous cause in fiery fashion slaying the reactionary right with the vocals coming on like an Aussie Lydon. The structure and backing vox brings to mind elements of Zappa which of course is a very good thing.

*Read To The End* features the husky blues tones of **Rachael Medhurst** who classily carries this funky number whilst TT compliments her sympathetically with his perfect plucking and picking.

The measure and breadth of *Duels* is amply illustrated by the next track *War Bride*, a hauntingly dark slide-resonator almost-instrumental replete with background shelling & gunfire sounds in addition to a plaintive Eastern wail. Sometimes no words are needed.

*Sort Your Life Out 1* takes us back into quasi-comic Zappa meets Beck territory ending aptly abruptly for such a strident statement. Followed unsurprisingly by *Sort Your Life Out 2* which couldn't be more contrasting, featuring a gorgeously sad melody and one **Jules (not Jools!) Benjamin** on customary quality keyboards. The song climaxes with an almost Purple era Gillan-esque wail and Hammond duet. Very nice indeed.

Next up *Condi* is a **Peter Miller** tune featuring the man on Chapman Stick (look it up!). Another change in style as this kaleidoscopic album surprises once again as 'Condi' shapes up to be a dark funk workout with an 80's Power Station feel as Tone's guitar pyro-playing vie with semi-rapped vocals.

**Pete Miller's** involvement continues with the co-written *Loved and Famous*. *Duels* is an album about the human and thus political condition and 'L&F' continues the theme it smoulders and rocks in right-on fashion.

*Titfer Blues* brings back the resonator raunch as TT's chameleon voice here channels Tom Waits and a grittier Clapton. Delicious licks from Tanner's digits: hat's off indeed!

The resonator remains for *Fat Man Blues* with lyrics by one **Richard Wall**. It stays firmly in Waitsonian territory but is plenty original and by no means a slavish pastiche. *Duels* strength to surprise is sustained as **Glen Gaskell** provides the Northern vernacular to the ballsy & bluesy *Roof Fall*, bemoaning the working folk's lot at the avaricious hands of their tyrannical employers. It was ever thus.

Back then to titanically tasty powerhouse rock for penultimate track *Hi Rise* featuring the harp blowing talents of **Mr Garrington Jones** of this parish.

*Duels* of course finishes in typically unguessable style with *Changeling*, a fine-picked guitar instrumental in the time-honoured fashion of such luminaries as Davey Graham, Bert Jansch through



to Jimmy Page. Fittingly even in the last minute of 3 here there is a final musical denouement as Tone shifts style and leaves us with a questioning, reaching finale which soon fades keeping us wondering and wanting more.

*Duels* is a panoramic work by a master of mercurial styles and magisterial multi-instrumentalism and there is never a dull moment herein. Tone has constructed a monumental work out of honest blood, sweat, tears, heart and soul, which more than deserves your total attention.

You can find *Duels* plus much more of his top quality output at [www.tonetanner.bandcamp.com](http://www.tonetanner.bandcamp.com)

Words by Nanker Phelge

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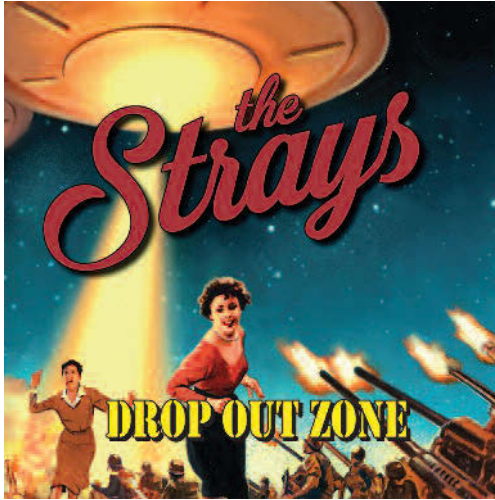
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# The Strays | Drop Out Zone

Cheltenham Band **The Strays** have grown a little since I first saw them when they were tight, colourful rockabilly trio: **Stella, Gary and Sam**. That trio has become four, with **Krisztian Jakab** on bass, freeing up Gary to turn to a full drum kit resulting in a rounder, more dynamic sound. **The Strays** have gone from strength to strength, they are fast becoming the go-to rock 'n' roll, good time band.

With two Eps in the last two years, an album was inevitable and here it is. *'Drop Out Zone'* has hit the streets so get ready to jump, jive, and dance your way to taking home a copy. It is a force of energy - do not think for one second you're going to be able to sit still with this playing in the background.



*'Hey Little Lady'* bursts into life like a ruptured water main. Gary sets up the rhythm on the drums before Sam adds dirty guitar and Jakab gets rumbling. Stella is irrepressible and leads the way for a sizzling starter. *'Fives and Two's'* is brought to life by Sam's guitar chords. Probably a bit quick for my old legs but I'd give it a go. This is rockabilly and the pace is unforgiving but there's relief on the

way with the lovely, sultry *'Oh Baby No'* which is definitely more my pace. Sam adds a very nice guitar bridge and I'm pleased to say, this beaut is stretched out for a sweet sounding 5 ½ minutes - Oh Baby Yes!

The respite is all too brief, as the pace lifts on *'Get Out Of This Town'* but Sam is resisting with a dirty, defensive guitar as Gary and Jakab keep the thunderous rhythm firing - nice one. The title track eases in at a gentle pace, lifting and dipping with its syncopated rhythm and the beat builds as Stella spells it out, sassy as ever.

Building on their previous EPs, this full album is a little cracker: just light the touch paper and stand back. The next best thing to having **The Strays** live in your living room.

Graham Munn

# Wyrewood | Last Leaves

Deep in the Malvern Hills is a little hideaway abode where the second offering and first full album from the multitalented **Wyrewood** was recorded.

*Last Leaves* is the title and the band comprise **Robert Powell** on keys guitar percussion and vocals, **Peter Hodge** on more guitars harmonica mandolin and vocals and **Lorna Joy Davies** delighting us with cello and flute. The band are augmented by **Lez Shed** and **Paul Michael Boyce** both bassists on a couple of tracks.

*Always too Much* kicks us off in fine style with a catchy melody which brings to mind the best of the 70's song writers. It's a timeless tune with nice proggy touches and sets the scene well for the album. The songs alternate between song writers Powell and Hodge compositions the first being the former's and second track *The Boy on the Moon (Like Superman)* is a Hodge offering. Beginning with mandolin and flute, piano and acoustic guitar then take centre stage as Hodge leads us through what appears to be a tale of growing up, in turns cautious and adventurous in tone, finishing with a beautiful minute long Elizabethan madrigal coda.

*Running away from Myself* returns us to more perhaps straightforward classic singer-songwriter material but is none the worst for it as Powell echoes the likes of messrs Ayers and Gabriel whilst retaining originality a-plenty. Overtones of melancholy cello (is there any other kind?) plus flute help the Gabriel connection further.



It's fair to say that Hodge's songs are more off-the-wall affairs as *Mixing Bowl* channels the lively likes of dear Dylan and the mighty Incredible String Band, especially Robin Williamson.

This titanic group keep coming back to me maybe because like them **Wyrewood** split songwriting duties half & half, never the twain?

The mystical and wyrd vein continues with the lovely Hodge composition *Lords and Masters*. The playing is exemplary throughout and stamps the whole enterprise with polished quality without losing a free & creative feel.

Powell's material is definitely on that loner stoner doomy vibe, think Hardin, Drake plus the likes of Blunstone. We are indeed in exalted company. His last effort on the album and penultimate number *Heads will Roll* underlines the diversity herein as an organ enters the fray for a once only appearance.

Fittingly *Last Leaf* leads us to the close with another hauntingly lovely

and mysterious melody from Hodge complete with trademark obscure and impressionistic words.

*Last Leaves* is a work full of variety and invention beautifully executed and produced in the bosom of their Malvern HQ. Hopefully **Wyrewood** will be tempted down from the hills to treat us to some rare live appearances in support of this excellent album.

We can but hope - in the meantime Last Leaves is available at [wyrewood.bandcamp.com](http://wyrewood.bandcamp.com) and **Pete Hodge** can be pleaded with at [prhodge@btinternet.com](mailto:prhodge@btinternet.com).

The campaign starts here!

Words by The Zimmer Twins

## The Lightweights EP

At the end of last month, Worcester band **The Lightweights** released their self titled, four track EP, with a launch party at Paradiddles, after two years in the making. Since then, the first single from the EP, "44", has gained air play on **The Premium Blend Radio Show**, and **BBC Introducing** on Hereford and Worcester.

"44", a song inspired by singer Jodies bus journey to University, was the first track the four piece band ever wrote.

A long guitar heavy intro leads us into the track, which takes on an indie pop feel as the lyrics kick in, reminding me of Paramore and The Pretty Reckless. Toe tapping drum beats lift the track beneath Jodies dulcet tones.

"Got No Time" is another catchy tune, which was built around a riff that drummer Euan came up with, a track seemingly about how friendships/relationships can change over time, drift apart, going through the motions rather than making time for each other.

"Smile" has a very strong message to share, in a world where women still often get seen as the weaker sex with a stereotypical

role to play, this song is a feminist anthem with delicate vocals and beautiful guitar strumming which ramps up before the final chorus, making for an empowering song for young women, a song not dissimilar to early Avril Lavigne offerings. This will resonate with a lot of people out there.



Final track, *"The Black and White"* offers a sound clearly influenced by the 1975, and is a lyric heavy song open to interpretation. My view is of a couple who can't live with each other, but can't live without one another either. A tale of looks can be deceiving and perception isn't everything, with poetic lines such as *"The sun isn't really orange, And the sea isn't really blue"* urging us not to believe everything we see.

This band, made up of **Jodie, Euan, Teegan and Alec**, already have a fair few local festivals and gigs under their young belts, with many more still lined up. The song writing talent, a collaboration of all four members adding their ideas and building on them, is exciting to hear on

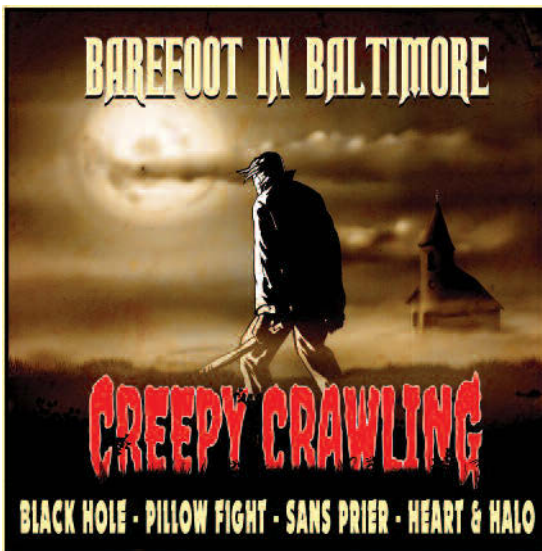
this EP. Home grown talent who often lay thanks upon the **Worcester School of Rock** and Performance for their roots. If you get the chance to catch a live performance from this energetic quartet I guarantee you'll thoroughly enjoy it if this EP is anything to go by. Easy listening, mood lifting, clever lyrics and enjoyable, effortless musical talent are all on offer within this debut EP.

Kate Ford

## Barefoot In Baltimore Creepy Crawling EP

Like most music fans of a certain age, I was brought up listening to the radio, watching TOTP and the Old Grey Whistle Test, and collecting 45s and LPs - speaking of which while I understand the current mania for vinyl, after spending months in my formative years lugging around those containers that were supposed to hold either 10 or 25 LPs (but you could usually squeeze a few more in) - I sure do appreciate collecting and hearing music in the current weightless digital format!

But definitely my preferred form of listening to new music is via live gigs, and what I'm always looking and listening for is that kicking tune (and it can be in just about any genre imaginable) that passes my own personal OGWT and makes it onto my all-time best listing (must go public with that one of these fine days) and festival 'mixtape' - which is actually on my phone but I don't know what else to call it...



One of my ever-present mixtape numbers is loud, distorted but melodic Redditch outfit **Barefoot in Baltimore's** *'Richie Didn't Know My Name'* - loved the title (really must ask them what it's all about) - but more taken with the 60s retro Phil Spector-ish 'wall of sound' feel - well worth a listen! So quite enjoyed checking out their ten-year anniversary EP *'Creepy Crawling'* - there's obviously a lot of emotion gone into this offering, the Hammer Horror-ish cover pic and sleeve notes suggest but aren't too specific that

there's an underlying theme or themes running through the four measured tracks *Black Hole*, *Pillow Fight*, *Sans Prier (Without Praying)* and *Heart & Halo* - with probably a few subplots thrown into the mix! They describe their music as *"shoegazing one minute then rocking like a kid with ADHD the next"* and that's a pretty good description of the sound on this nicely presented and engineered offering which has shades of 90s grunge with melodic over and undertones. If you're a fan of Soeur (we all are) then you'll be taken with this!

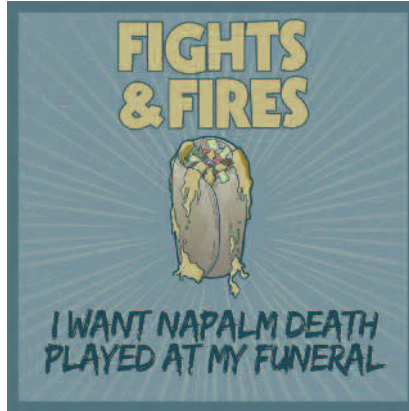
The band consist of wife/husband **Taylor and Leroy Mentos** (who incidentally got hitched a few years ago at Gretna Green!) on lead vocals and guitar respectively, with rock steady rhythm supplied by **Matt Abbott** on bass and **Ed Russell** on drums. They've been stalwarts of the rollercoaster that's

the Redditch music scene for a while now, but are also regulars at **Worcester Music Festival** - and rather a pleasant bunch of musos! *Creepy Crawling* is out on 29 July on Soundcloud - well worth checking!

Andy O'Hare

# Fights & Fires | Kebaptism

For over a decade now Worcester-based punk rock quintet **Fights & Fires** have been delivering their own brand of heart on the sleeve melodic catchy hardcore via both their physical releases (which includes 3 albums, an EP, 2 split releases and numerous singles) and their blistering live shows where they truly excel and take their already quality tuneage to another level. The secret to the band's prolific creativity? Well that's easy. It is fuelled by a diet of their favourite food, the kebab! And it is in honour of this pita filled culinary colossus that **Fights & Fires** have named their latest release *Kebaptism*. Not only that but they have took the genius step of selling it in a completely new format, a bottle of kebab accompaniment sauce. The locally produced jalapeño and lime flavoured sauce comes with a QR code on the bottle which can be scanned to download/play the 2 brand new tracks.



The lead track is the brilliantly titled *I want Napalm Death Played at My Funeral*. Check out Will Munn's review of this cracking slice of tuneage in the July issue of SLAP.

The 2nd track *Row Away* opens with a throbbing bass line and quickly blasts into a fast catchy slab of melodic hardcore. It's a song with yet another catchy chorus and riffs a plenty. Perhaps not quite as instantly infectious as the opener it's definitely a grower and one I can see being blasted out at venues across the country as the temperature in the pit rises and the sweat drips of the walls and ceilings.

As for the kebab accompaniment sauce which is manufactured by independent sauce producer **Tubby Toms** of Gloucester. Well as a person who is never shy of a good condiment I

can honestly say it's bloody lovely. So go out there folks, order a bottle (from the below link) and get Kebaptised!

<https://lockjawrecords.co.uk/fights-fires-kebaptism/>

Jason K - Punk by Nature

# The King Dukes | Numb Tongues

The debut album, *Numb Tongues* by nine-piece, original soul band **The King Dukes** is something of a revelation. One of those albums you sit back in awe, listening and re-listening as the music grabs you, inviting you to dance, to sing, to punch the air in celebration. That there are still band's out there who know there way around a hook and a recording studio well enough to truly deliver something special.

Guitarist and lead vocalist **Marc Griffiths** formed the band by gathering like-minded musicians from a hotbed of local talent in a bid to create a sound that's raw and organic, yet simultaneously soulful and inviting. Combining a love of contemporary British RnB and Memphis Soul to form a strong starting block. The band add a dash of blues, a twist of jazz and a rock 'n' roll twang to create a deliciously addictive eleven track affair.

Opening with the recent single, a brush of electric and an instantly affecting lead by Griffith's, *I Gotta Go* grabs the attention from the off. The rhythm section, piano and horn section soon join the mix, leading towards an instant choral pay-off that comes complete with cooed harmonies, counter-balancing Marc's magical blend of raw yet soulful lead. The three and a quarter minute track is a perfect introduction to the 'Kings, infectious blending those R&B and soul influences into an addictive statement of intent.

*Dying Man* follows and soon proves **The King Dukes** are no one trick pony. A slow burning number sees a bruised Griffiths emotive over a long sustained keyboard note. The rhythm section combine to create an aching rhythm, further peppered by an expressive



burst from the horn section, further enhanced by a gorgeous, muted trumpet solo courtesy of **Joss Murray**.

The gravelly lead vocal of *Kid Gloves* reminds me of the latter day bluesy swagger of Jim Morrison. And sure enough we're served up a short, sharp rock 'n' roll guitar solo during a thrilling, muscular three and half minutes. Continuing the album's diversity and rich balance, *Rub You The Right* is a glorious strutting slab of R&B, featuring **Henry Slim's** wailing blues harmonica. Alongside is

the swaggering rhythm section of **Mandrake Fanastico** and **Dan Clibery** (bass and drums respectively). In direct comparison, the opening of *I Guess Monday's (Aren't Going To Be The Same Anymore)* strips the 'Dukes all the way back, leaving a passionate and captivating Griffiths without accompaniment until the band subtly embellish, with those aching vocals very much front and centre.

Elsewhere, *Keep On Living* has something of a skiffle blues feel. Again featuring the aforementioned contagious harmonica of Slim alongside a howling lead vocal to close leaving one practically punching the air in celebration. *True True Love* sees Griffiths duet with a bewitching **April Jackson**

and the Hammond-esque keys of Lowe. The penultimate *Coming Right Back For Your Heart* is one of those slow-burning ballads that soar and simply ooze with emotion.

*Numb Tongues* weighs in at eleven tracks and nearly forty minutes long and I can honestly say there's not a single wasted moment. **The King Dukes** have delivered an absolute gem. Raw, bruised soul at it's absolute best. I highly recommend you take a look at The King Dukes and one of the debut's of the year.

Will Munn

## Shaun Williams

### All The Love Songs Were About You

Midlands based DJ and producer Shaun began by playing and making trance meanwhile flirting with house and electro sounds. A string of releases followed and then an album "Digital Communication" garnering the attention of and being played by Paul Van Dyk, Above And Beyond and Tiesto to name a few.

At this point Radio1 were also involved, Shaun was invited to record an exclusive live set for BBC introducing, Huw Stephens also played "Give Me The Chance" Live on BBC RADIO ONE, Naming Shaun as the next up and coming talent in the dance music world.

Shaun Williams has taken his hard house blueprint from his last album, Neon Peep Show, and attempted to move with it in a different direction, this is coupled with his label, Flaunt Recordings, that releases this album also aiming to diversify their style of releases.

Where Williams succeeds is in the dichotomy of introspective, melancholy lyrics about the heart and uplifting, dancefloor inspired music. The two shouldn't work well together but on many occasions they do and as a crossover album aimed firmly at the pop market it succeeds.

Lyricaly, as the title says this is 13 songs with male and female vocals giving differing views on the subject. Musically many songs follow the synth stabs and hooks, breakdowns and building up



crescendos that are foundations of hard house but whereas this is a known quantity for dance floor bangers it takes some skill to move into the direction that Shaun Williams has gone.

BBC Introducing has already been broadcasting some of this album so hopefully this will lead to more airplay, which it deserves. All The Love Songs Were About You will be released on 26th August on Fault Recording.

Simon Atkinson

And details there are a-plenty as Craigus is indeed a one man orchestra turning his hand to everything from harmonium to saw synth(?) and in typical fashion a covertly sampled playing of the resident harp at Portmeirion. Also you have to love a man who plays a Cornflakes packet! CB is not alone here though and is joined by Brummie legends **Ilias Lintzos** on a myriad of percussion and **Roots Wilson** playing Hammered Dulcimer on a track.

The music progresses through the dusty desert til we reach perhaps a long-forgotten cobwebbed room with a creaky musical box and that harp, being utilised to gorgeous effect together with romantic swelling strings and acoustic piano all fed through a warped fairground wurlitzer. Classic Craigus indeed.

The final piece *Despair Meets With Fuzz Ballet* (these titles!) is one of sinister dread as the film reaches its climax and a doubtless doomy denouement - who knows - will we ever see this film and does that matter? Will it become Rutter's Don Quixote? Let's hope not as there is so much to look forward to if this is the soundtrack. The ocean enters the piece and transports us to a monastieral choral thunderstorm chamber and there we climax fittingly with a pitch dark undertow drone. The End??

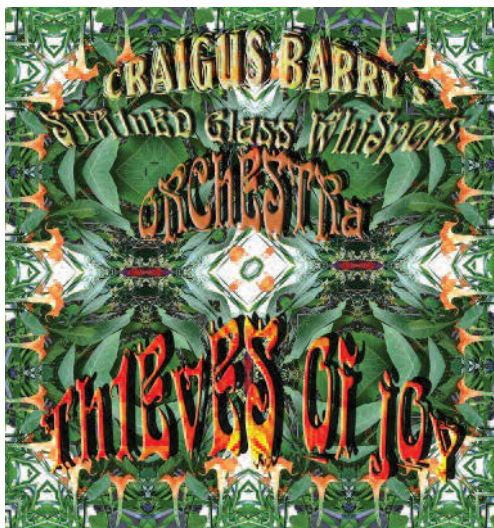
Words by Zapata Van Moostash

## Craigus Barry's Stained Glass Whispers Orchestra Thieves Of Joy

Following on from last year's intriguing *Temptations Of The Jaded Saints* ep (see review Slap Issue 85) *Thieves of Joy* distils & extrapolates ideas from that work whilst bringing new ones to fruition all adding up to what will eventually become the full soundtrack to **Tom Lee Rutter's** much anticipated acid western *Day Of The Stranger*.

From these titles one could expect a Leone meets Jodorowsky at Morricone's sound studio approach and you wouldn't be too far wrong. However that would do **Craigus B** some injustice as though he is clearly influenced by spaghetti specialists such as Alessandrini, de Masi, Cipriani & the like, being the renaissance man he undoubtedly is, there is no lack of originality here within these 5 tasty tracks.

Yes it's a Western soundtrack so we get twangy guitar, frenetically strummed string instruments of various kinds, atmospheric percussion flourishes and even requisite echoed whistling but it's all done to superb effect on tracks such as *Snake In Grass* and *One Card Left* and *Fools Rock Closed On a Sunday*. Such excellent evocative titles & as ever with Mr Barry (a musical relation to John surely) the devil is in the detail.



## Laurence Jones Band

Laurence has been the 'new face of blues' in the UK since emerging on the scene back in 2012. Four albums have been testimony to his maturing talent. His latest offering, simply labelled **Laurence Jones Band**, was recorded at Miami's **Top Stop Music** following two years of hard work. His well established band (**Bennett Holland** on keys, **Phil Wilson** on drums and bassist **Greg Smith**) are rightly acknowledged in the self-titled release.

Bennett's boogie piano opens the door to a rock 'n' roll ripper. *'Everything's Gonna Be Alright'* gets you up and moving from the off. Flicking forward into a bluesy *'Wipe Those Tears Dry'*, Laurence takes lead vocals with soul-filled lyrics as his honeyed guitar adds colouration. A cluster of superb blues songs make up the core of this release - dive in and unearth.

He wants you to *'Stay'* with a rocking Beatles/Stones inspired rhythm and then we tumble into the superb voodoo blues of *'Mistreated'* with its rich deep bass and the guitar tells the tale before soaring away. This is a barnstorming track that, alone, is sufficient reason to get this album.



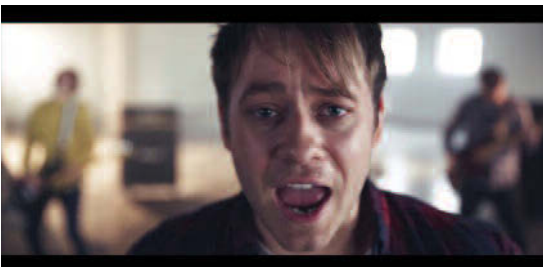
A much more traditional *'Long Lonely Ride'* is sparse with the lyrics telling the story. As Phil clicks away on the drum rims, Bennett adds piano - simple straight cut bloody good blues. Jones adds a very personal song in *'Beautiful Place'*, a soulful, heartfelt dedication to his mother and her difficult passage through parts of her life. *'Day Tripper'* (yes that one) came from an idea of producer Greg Ellias, combining Stevie Ray Vaughan's *'Crossroads'* with the Beatles' pop classic. The lyrics are, of course Lennon's, the underlying vibe fused with Texas' best.

Laurence has delivered an album of diverse rock, soul, and of course blues. He continues to build on his previous work with growing maturity and many of the songs are from his own life experiences. For me, that core of songs in the heart of the album make this an album worthy of anyone's library. If you are an avid fan, having watched Laurence Jones 'grow' into his music, it's a no-brainer and you have probably already ordered it.

Graham Munn

## Y!KES | Shadow Gallery

Alternative rock quartet **Y!KES** may startle you with their name but their music is known for holding your attention throughout. Returning with latest single **Shadow Gallery**, the Birmingham based band have released 3 other singles this year alone. Influenced by artists such as Foals, Enter Shikari, Biffy Clyro and Muse, they've already gained support from Kerrang! **BBC Introducing, Brum Radio** and **Indie Midlands**. As a band, they haven't been together for that long, but in a short amount of time they've created a strong buzz. With a fanbase and a comfortable discography sat behind them, a bright future lies ahead for that collective and a whole lot of stardom.

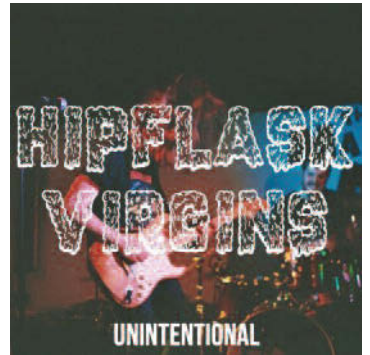


**Shadow Gallery** is defined by hard-hitting drums, in your face string tones and a grit filled, husky vocal range. Described as a 'Britpop anthem', the track feels like it is fused with an alternative rock sound more than pop. With a hard hitting arrangement, the subject behind the song is emotional too. Written about dementia, the music video features the band playing the track live in what looks like an abandoned warehouse. The video stars iconic 70's/80's pop star Tony Christie who plays an older version of the frontman Joby. A rollercoaster of emotions, *'Shadow Gallery'* could well be the band's best single yet. The band will be putting on a headline show in Birmingham at the Asylum 2 on August 16th. Do check out their social media to find out more.

Chloe Mogg

## Hipflask Virgins | Unintentional

Alt-rock duo **Hipflask Virgins**, comprising of guitarist/vocalist Jay and drummer/backing vocalist Will, have been playing frequent shows around the Worcester area (and recently in Manchester) for a couple of years now. Their frenetic gigs have honed their sound into something tight, yet unrestrained enough to provide thrills for even the most jaded of rock fans. Their debut single, *Unintentional*, is no different, combining the Pixies' quiet verse, loud chorus trick with fuzzed-out, muscular riffs akin to Royal Blood or QOTSA.



Will's drumming here is a relentless march behind Jay's sludgy riffs and disaffected vocals. *"I guess I've come to enjoy your misery"* sounds as self-deprecating as it does sneering, and the track is a brilliantly-observed capturing slice of adolescent angst.

The bridge takes it down with guitar arpeggios and a more pleading, vulnerable repetition of the previously brash hook "I didn't mean this at all". before exploding again into punishing noise and concluding in the vocals rising to a ragged scream.

Unintentional, accompanied by an intense, strobe-lit video, is a very strong debut from **Hipflask Virgins**, and proof that the band has a bright future! *Unintentional* is out now on all major streaming services.

**Hipflask Virgins** play **Paradiddles** in Worcester on Saturday 17th August.

Dan Knight

# West Fest

## West Malvern | 29th June

Against odds of over 133,000 to one against, West Malvern's **West Fest** was held on the hottest day of the year for two years running. As before everyone worked for free other than the necessary hire of infrastructure such as tents, generator, portable loos, PA systems and so forth with all profits to be distributed amongst local worthy causes. The festival might run for just a single day but planning starts in January with a lot to cover including food vendors, stall holders, bouncy castles, children's events and the musicians. **Christian Finn** supplied the Turbosound PA systems for both main stages and handled the mixing on one of them while myself and **John Hewitt** looked after the other. Both sound systems used wireless remote mixing so there were no cables trailing across the field.

This year two newly designed identical stages were used alternately to handle the main acts so there was no waiting between sets for bands to set up while a smaller third stage, the **Dakin Diversity Stage**, at the far end of the field catered for everything from bands, duos and solo artists to poetry readings with some exceptional talent on display.



Nick Judith Hooper

The quality of music on offer wouldn't have disgraced a major festival despite the majority of the acts being fairly local. Malvern's own **Ya Ya Logic** kicked off the festival in great style playing their own material followed by the current incarnation of the **Truckstop Trixies** featuring **Tyler Massey** and **Vo Fletcher** with a mainly Americana style set. Sadly, virtuoso guitarist **Gordon Giltrap** couldn't play this year as he was scheduled to have an operation

Over in the **Dakin Diversity Stage** we all enjoyed an amazing array of Acts while we basked in the summer heat.

**Roses Theatre choir, West Malvern Voices, BalletMalvern, St James Primary school Samba** and dance, family ceilidh with **Hodges Dump** and several acoustic sets filled our day

The highlights of the day included **Fred Gunning**, just 13, whose confident acoustic set amazed us all. **Jesse Coyle**, 14, deserves a mention for his beautiful voice and keyboards. Both these young people will go far.



just before West Fest but his friend **Carrie Martin**, who came all the way from Hull, played a wonderfully evocative acoustic set as did film composer **Nick Hooper** and his wife **Judith**, also good friends of Gordon. Gordon says he hopes to be able to play again next year.



Ray Mytton band

A contemporary set of original material was played by **Food for the Famine**, a London band with Malvern roots and there was also an excellent set from Worcester's own **Flames**. The three-piece **Ray Mytton band** played a crowd-pleasing set of rock



Electric Cake Salad

classics while **Skewwhiff** delivered a fine set of their own material before handing over to Raggedstone for a more acoustic style of set. West Fest newcomers, **Kings of the Quarter Mile**, also local, played a polished set and to ramp up the energy before the late night DJ set we had **Electric Cake Salad** who fuse rock with Electronica. Everyone gave of their best despite the overpowering heat and the attendance was the highest for several years. Now we can rest easy for a few months before the planning for West Fest 2020 starts all over again.

Paul White

In the evening a mellow set by **Ship of Fools** chilled out the audience, I especially loved their cover of Neil Young's **Harvest Moon**.



To finish our full on day Local band **The Way** entertained us with their funky soul set and had us all up dancing into the sunset!

Roll on next year!!!

Carol James

## Hardwicke Circus, New Wave Punk Worley's at the Swan, Stourport | 19th July

Thursday nights in Stourport can be eventful in some way or other. Sliding into the Swan on the warm night, it was wonderful to feel a buzzing atmosphere all around from the audience. The night saw Hagley High School rock stars **New Wave Punk** create an enthusiastic approach to the ever-changing journey that is punk. Filled with a set of how I could only describe as uplifting angst, they started the night off at a truly high standard. Standout tracks such as "Echo Beach" by Martha and the Muffins and "Ever Fallen in Love" by the Buzzcocks saw the 12 piece collective form one big ball of creativity. Musical director Fred stood by the side of the stage with a beaming smile and pure pride on his face. Creating smiles all around the room, the fun loving outfit were obviously brought up with a wide range of musical influences. These teenagers have a colourful future ahead for them and we're looking forward to seeing where it may lead.



Headliners tonight **Hardwicke Circus** stormed onto the stage with pure professionalism. Blending Americana with Indie Rock,

the septet stopped by at the Swan the night before they journeyed to Hyde Park for their Bob Dylan and Neil Young support slot. Taking to the stage with hit after hit, the musicianship in this band is incredible. Bouncing off one another with killer arrangements, the band are filled with youngsters too. Hits such as "Waldo" and "Woman" created a stadium feel in the Swan. Anthem after anthem, this band are all about the arrangements. Including a brass section alongside the warm rock structures, it created a soulful performance to each track.

Rock stars in the making, imagine The Rolling Stones creating an album with The Doors jamming with Primal Scream... THIS is **Hardwicke Circus**. Transforming their influences into their own originality, this night was one to remember for time to come. A beautiful rock and roll journey was had by all.

Having heard about the success of their Hyde Park gig, it's no surprise that this band are destined for stardom.



They well and truly tore the roof off the Swan. Chloe Mogg

With a cider in hand we took a position front and centre for the festival's headliners **Merry Hell**. Introduced by the compere extraordinaire **Stephen Steinhaus**, the folk (rock) combo donned their instruments of choice and launched into a glorious stripped back rendition of *Loving The Skin Your In*, fronted by **Andrew** and the effervescent **Virginia Kettle**. Socially conscious lyrics, guitar, mandolin and fiddle combine to draw a number of people to their feet as the Wigan natives sound takes hold.

An infectious, *Let's Not Have A Morning After (Until We've Had A Night Before)* follows, showcasing the band's lighter, more playful side. Before the defiant and rousing duo (and somewhat apt anthems in such politically turbulent times) of *Stand Up* and *We Need Each Other Now* (with its clarion call to 'Rise Up') see the **Merry Hell** faithful (and new converts) lend their voice in support.

They continue with the likes of *Bury Me Naked* and *Lean On Me Love*, drawing more revellers towards the bandstand prior to an anthemic call for unity on a spirited run at *Come On England*. A suitably woozy *Drunken Serenade*, a newbie in *Don't Want To Be Cool* and a tilt at *The Bakers Daughter*, draw the band's set and the *Stratford River Festival* to a fitting close, leaving the natives with a nagging melody and a wide grin.

Whether plugged in or indeed, in this more laidback acoustic setting, **Merry Hell** never fail to impress and remain a firm folky favourite. The **River Festival**, after a brief yet satisfying taste, may well become another annual mainstay on my summer events calendar for years to come.

Will Munn

## Merry Hell Live River Festival, Stratford | 7th July

After a hard days work, what better way to unwind than a trip down to the river side, Stratford and while a couple of hours away at the town's annual two day **River Festival**. As we ambled towards the bandstand taking in the chilled atmosphere and sheer numbers of locals milling on the garden it was hard not to be seduced by the aromas of local produce, whilst the beer tent beckoned me over.

On the bandstand, Warwickshire native **Wes Finch** and his band were bringing their set of warmly appreciated Americana towards a fitting conclusion, before a local dance troupe showcased their moves to the delight of all.



## Kidderminster Fringe Festival

**Kidderminster Fringe Festival** started life back in June 2012, celebrating the Queen's Jubilee by holding a 4 day Music Event in and around **The Boars Head**. Joining forces with **Kidderminster Arts Festival** the following year, the event moved to August when it is now held every year.

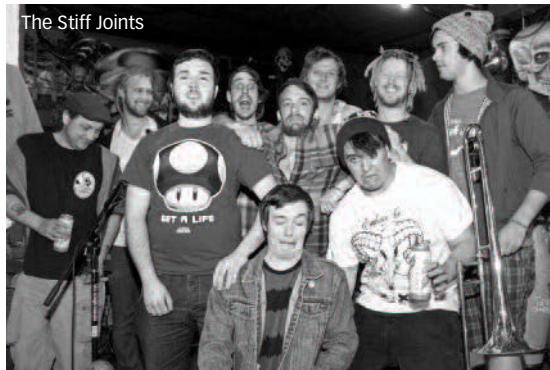
2019 brings with it one major change, moving to **Batemans Car Park**, only a stones throw from the old site, due to the town's regeneration project.



Social Ignition

Toni Charles Photography

Bands this year include **Stiff Joints**, **Social Ignition**, **Cracked Actors**, **The Humdrum Express**, **Skewwhiff**, **Sick Pins**, **Angry Itch**, **The Teenage Zombies** and **The Innocent**.



The Stiff Joints

As always, there will be 25+ Live acts, bars, catering vans (including a vegan option) and also a children's play area where you can build a spaceship. This year our theme is **'Space & Aliens'** to celebrate 50 years since we landed on the moon so please feel free to dress accordingly. The fun kicks off at 1.00pm each day, finishing at 11pm on the Saturday and 10pm on the Sunday.



The Humdrum Express

Photo: Andy O'Hare

Entry is free but there will have some buckets around to collect a for future continuation of this great event.

Sand Baker

## GIGS

**Friday August 9**  
THE ARBORETUM  
MUTANTE  
THE BLUE DIVE

**Friday August 16**  
FIGHTS & FIRES  
BRASSICK + SUPPORT

**Friday August 23**  
**UNCOVER**  
LIAR LIAR *Single Launch*  
LOWER LOVEDAY  
HEINZ-SIGHT

**Tuesday September 3**  
*Faithful City Shows.*  
PRESS CLUB  
WATCH COMMANDER  
THE EARNEST SPEARS

**Friday September 6**  
**UNCOVER**  
THE STRAYS  
RED HOT RIOT  
CHEVY CHASE STOLE MY WIFE

**Friday September 13**  
**WMF Day 1**  
SKEWWHIFF  
THE OTHER DRAMAS  
LEISURE TANK  
LIARS AT THE WITCH TRIAL

**Saturday September 14**  
**WMF Day 2: UNCOVER**  
LEGPUPPY  
RAPTOR  
WHITE NOISE CINEMA  
CANDID + MORE TBA

**Sunday September 15**  
**WMF Day 3: BBC Introducing**  
*in Hereford & Worcester - LIVE sessions:*  
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HENRY  
SUBSKII  
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**Friday September 27**  
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# Worcester Show

This year's music line-up has been revealed. An eclectic mix of musicians and bands are to perform at this year's popular **Worcester Show**, an annual event that regularly attracts over 10,000 visitors and will this year take place in **Gheluvelt Park** on Sunday 11 August.



First up on the main stage are **The VHT's**, a young three piece band who perform punk originals and covers, followed by Kidderminster's **The Humdrum Express** whose withering social critique has been championed by BBC 6 Music. **The Connor Maher Quartet** follow with their claim that *'every song leaves you feeling desperate to learn the words, so that you can sing along with everyone else in the room.'* and **The Strays** will be pushing rock 'n' roll to its limit, fusing a multitude of genres to create a unique modern sound

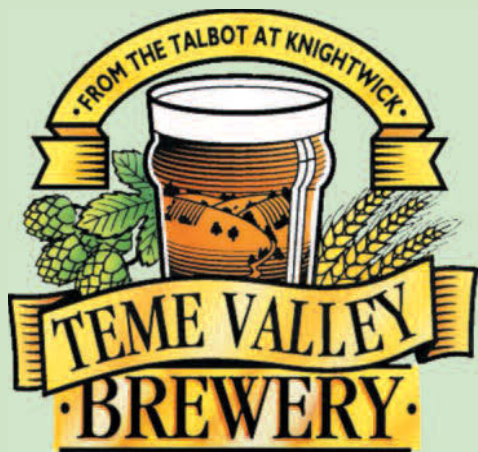


with a gritty, vintage edge. **The Social Ignition**, a mighty 8 piece ska band from Hinckley with an arsenal of get-up/get-down skanking beats and finally **The Rocker Covers** who play modern pop and rock songs in rock and roll 50's style.



The Gheluvelt Park bandstand provides a more intimate setting for soloists and acoustic instruments. Performing there will be **Kringo Blue**, a melodic acoustic guitarist with soul and jazz/blues influences; **Ruben Seabright** with a mix of warm guitar and powerful vocals, producing a passionate set of heart felt blues and soul; **Elisha Green**, who combines heartfelt lyrics with delicate accompaniment to create a fusion of pop, folk and jazz; **Chloe Mogg**, delivering a mixture of musical influences to create a musical journey with her own songs and covers and **Amie Woodyatt's** pop & country influences for any listener to enjoy.

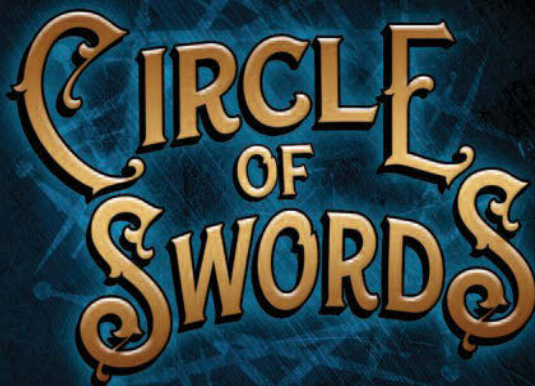
The Worcester Show is a fun day out for the whole family with a fantastic line up of top bands performing this year with something to suit all tastes. Come and join this popular annual event which celebrates the creativity of local people. For more information on the show, including timings for the band performances, a full guide to the event and details on how to enter, go to [www.worcestershow.org.uk](http://www.worcestershow.org.uk)



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## The Wedding Present, Vinny Peculiar The Marrs Bar | Thurs 25th July

1989 is universally recognised as a seminal year for alternative music on both sides of the Atlantic. The influence of acid house was permeating its way through over here with the likes of The Stone Roses' debut album and Technique by New Order leading the way for what was to come the following year from Happy Mondays, Primal Scream et al. Meanwhile the Sub Pop label and bands such as Pixies were forging a path that lead to alternative rock breaking through in the shape Nirvana stateside.

**The Wedding Present**, however, were to take this new found major label interest down their own path. While quintessentially English in the kitchen sink drama tradition, musically they owed as much to their American counterparts, particularly on *Bizzaro*, the album celebrating its 30th anniversary in the shape of this tour.

Opening tonight's gig at the **Marrs Bar** in front of a sell out crowd was our own *Vinny Peculiar*. Showcasing his own brand of poetic, personal folk tales, he was a very fitting support act and went down very well with what was an attentive and sympathetic audience.

Awaiting the main act, the crowd swelled and grew in as much anticipation as I can remember for a gig at Worcester's premier venue. We were not to be disappointed. The latest incarnation of **The Wedding Present** sounded as lean and hungry as ever,

playing a high energy set on the hottest day of the year. Bizarro was played in full, interspersed with tracks from throughout their career which was a refreshing approach to the ever-growing trend of album anniversary gigs that I thought really worked. The singles, *Brassneck* and *Kennedy* became crowd sing-alongs while the epic, breakneck instrumentation of *Take Me!*, *Bewitched* and *What Have I Said Now?* were quite breathtaking at times, the emotional intensity matching **David Gedge's** lyrics of love and heartbreak.



Uncompromising and unique as ever, they held the audience captivated for the entire gig and I for one will be looking forward to their next move as much as I have for the last thirty years.

Michael Bramhall



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**MARVEL US! Musical Theatre Summer School 2019**, will run from Monday 5 to Thursday 8 August, 10am to 4.30pm each day. Suitable for ages 6 to 18 years and open to all abilities and levels of experience, this fun week of musical theatre, run by Artrix Youth Theatre is inspired by Marvel Comics. Participants will use song, movement and drama to build confidence, skills and release their inner hero! With the help of youth theatre leaders, participants will perform for family and friends on final day of the workshop.

**Theatre Explorers Summer School 2019** runs from Monday 12 to Wednesday 14 August, 10am to 4.30pm each day. Young people aged 14 to 19 years will explore Theatre - from page to stage - led by Artrix Associate Artist **Naomi Coleman**. This three day course will explore Theatre texts, techniques and culminate in a performance.

*Naomi said; "Theatre Explorers Summer School 3 day workshop is designed to introduce, develop and nurture young creatives who are interested in the process of the actor. Working with like-minded people, exploring and sharing ideas, taking text from page to stage, this really is an insight into the creative roots of acting!"*

Each course costs £100 per person and £75 each for siblings.



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## Kyla Brox

### Iron Road, Bar 57, Pershore | 11th July

Clutching empty pint glasses to herself, mouth slightly open with an unblinking stare focused on the stage, it is clear that **Kyla Brox** has entranced our young barmaid. The band are coming to a juddering climax as the final bars of Hallelujah are played out, eyes shut, legs splayed and in unison mouthing the words. The greying gentleman to my side has fallen asleep at several points leading up to this performance but he is now wide awake. The comfortable couple in front lean in to each other and the male warmly slips a complicit arm around his partner. The voice of Brox, that voice, rises and circles the room like a celestial drug...and we are all entranced.

Brox's band are tight. And I mean tight, tighter than a drug dealer owed money. The guitarist's (**Paul Farr**) precision with the chord changes and the experimental notes taken for a walk are smooth and complementary – no wonder his CV is so impressive. The bass (Blomeley) and drums (Warburton) lock in and offer up what Nick Kent refers to as "the churn of sedition." The rumbling blues backdrop is at times reminiscent of planets colliding.

One has a sense that the planets are aligning as **Kyla Brox** takes to the stage, her heavenly voice is disarming and explosive with equal measure. She is no angel though as she teases, flirts and seduces an all too willing audience. At times coquettish, at times Manc sassy, our blues curator is an excellent songbird with a musical heritage to match her deservedly won contemporary awards and plaudits. Kyla Brox was the recipient of another award on the night, one that I am sure she will be unaware of: pouring my



pint, our barmaid leaned in and gushed with a conspiratorial stage whisper...*"she is amazing, this is the best shift ever."*

The shift started with our avuncular troubadour, with a voice borrowed from the Delta and a pleasing line in barroom narratives to accompany his highly personal songs, **Trevor "Babajack" Steger** was a fitting entrée to a night of soul infused blues. With tales of personal longing, broken hearts, "Wells" and passionate hobbies, Steger opened up for what was a night of memorable blues that like the audience and the music, reflected the full spectrum of humanity.

The great tragedy of life is not losing but almost winning – the "Pain and Glory" if you will, to name check Brox's new album – the night was glorious but like all blues it was tinged with personal pain.

Words: Nicholas Burford Photo: Graham Munn

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## C-Jam

Prince of Wales, Ledbury | Sun 30th June

**C-Jam** are a collection of seasoned musicians who play in other bands but combine to bring a blend of jazz, funk and blues to sate our appetites.

For this session, the four horsemen of the apocalypse, were **Brian Badhams** on keys and vocals (Elkie Brooks, Steve Gibbons), **Bob Wilson** on guitar (Steve Gibbons, Ruby Turner), **Brendan Day** on drums (Steve Gibbons) and **Frank Walker**, a go-to bass player with numerous bands over the years.

They started the ball rolling with a tasty Herbie Hancock instrumental before turning to a jazz edged 'Moondance' where they are in their element and have everyone tracking the groove. The blues box is ticked with songs from BB King and John Mayall with Bob taking the opportunity to show off his riffing as Brendan and Frank set up the rhythm, providing the foundations for Brian to caress and provoke those ivories.

The Lennon/McCartney funk kicks in heavily from the rhythm boys as we 'Come Together' and heads are nodding, feet are

tapping and hips are swaying in unison. 'Summertime' has breached the old walls of the Prince and it would have brought a smile to Gershwin's face as he tried out the ales here.

**C-Jam** dig out one of their own with 'My Love', which grows into a funk feast, first with Brian's keys leading the way over the delicious rhythm before easing back for Bob to bend and pick at

his strings, the brass slide having a bit of a polish up in the process.

I'm on a tight time schedule and know I cannot see the gig through, but they lock me into an extended jazz funk that I can't resist. The race to the train gets faster as the funk unfolds and I'm hanging on in there. Lead is swapped again between Brian and Bob, Brian going from piano to organ and back. It is absolutely riveting and

I'm in trouble: I've no idea what the instrumental is, nor have time to find out, but I'm not leaving until it's finished. C-Jam call a halt and I start running (too old for that), making the station road as the train is pulling in. I take a short cut from the end of the platform with no time for the footbridge and leap on as the guard flags to leave. Phew! What you do for live music! My pulse eases, my ears stop pounding, alive and funky out on **C-Jam**.

Graham Munn



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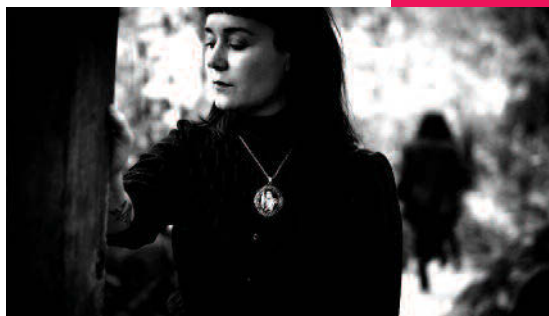
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# Burd Ellen

## Barbar Café, Hereford | 8th August

Next up for **Weirdshire** at **Babar Café** - this is a very special event, an exciting opportunity to catch this much talked-about project from Glasgow. The group uses traditional song to explore and evoke dark landscapes and deep stories. The solo project of **Debbie Armour**, a collaborator with **Alasdair Roberts** and **Trembling Bells'** **Alex Neilson**, whose current sold-out debut album, *Silver Came*, explores women's narratives in folk song. The album features **Burd Ellen** as a trio, with **Lucy Duncan** and **Gayle Brogan** with a range of instruments including piano, violin, psaltery, assorted electronic debris and some sensual vocal harmonies. It will be this very trio who will be playing at Babar café - squeezed into a tour which includes Denmark, Belgium, and the Sidmouth and Walthamstow Folk Festivals.



Already identified as an artist to watch out for, with features in *Roots*, and mentions in the *Guardian*, **Weirdshire** are very fortunate to have **Burd Ellen** come to Hereford at this time. As always, there will be vinyl selections from resident *Weirdshire* DJs, **Jus'Jay Yoo Kay** and **Sproatly Smith**. Free entry, with suggested donation of £8."

# Music in the Hall

## Bennett Wilson Poole

### St Georges Hall, Bewdley | 6th September

Friday September 6th brings a return visit to Music in the Hall at **St Georges Hall, Bewdley** with a real coup for Worcestershire because we have the 2nd appearance of Americana super-group **Bennett Wilson Poole**.

**Danny Wilson** (Danny And The Champions Of The World, Grand Drive), and **Robin Bennett** (The Dreaming Spires, Saint Etienne) have joined forces with **Tony Poole** (Starry Eyed and Laughing), producer extraordinaire, and king of the electric twelve-string Rickenbacker to form the UK supergroup. Anyone who attended last year's show will know that their range of musicianship allied to a lively presentation skills set results in a fantastically enjoyable night of live music.

**Bennett Wilson Poole** is the collaboration made for destiny and one set to make a significant mark in the recording annals. Jangle rocking revivalists gets the clichés out the way early, but the two thoughts never stray far from your mind as their self-titled album washes over you. Rampant guitars, wispy harmonies and luxurious tunes combine to place the record in the set position pending the proverbial smash. Wholesomely British and vividly retrospective, the forty-eight minutes music on the album parade in a flash with little effect of strain, but plenty of endless uncomplicated ease.

They combine their voices, guitars, and song-writing to marvellous effect in their new collection of songs that began as uplifting acoustic music and just grew into something far more wide-ranging and transcendent, providing balm, inspiration and succour for these troubled times.

Their album, the recently released titled *"Bennett, Wilson and Poole"*, is testament to Tony's particular production and musical talents. All three speak in the rosiest of terms of the collaboration and their excitement at its release is palpable.

The evening opens with both Youth Act followed by a main support, both providing the usual local element to the evening. Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at £12.00 on-line from [www.musicinthehall.co.uk](http://www.musicinthehall.co.uk), [www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk](http://www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk) or from Hall Café. (£15 on door)



Photo: Colin Hill

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## Upton Blues Festival 19-21st July '19

At this year's festival a carefully selected panel and a lively room of the public tried to define 'What Is the Blues?' Now I'll come back to that question later, but what I can say is that the UK's biggest free blues festival, covers every subgenre that falls in to the 'blues' category over its fantastic three days.

Day One.

Where to start? As I hit Upton around four, the festival is already in full swing and the small town is engulfed by revellers looking for their annual fix. A little deliberation and I head to church for the newly relocated acoustic stage featuring **Matt Woosey**. An already busy congregation watches intently as Matt delivers a breath-taking rendition of Kashmir. He later offers snippets of 'John the Revelator' and 'Backdoor Man' during his sensational finale. No time to stop and praise the bewitching Woosey, as The Achievers are ready to rock the Riverside with their unique blend of 'dancefloor gospel' and 'alternative blues.' The Stroud based five-piece draw a large crowd and the first dancers of the day.



Heading towards seven o'clock, I decide to introduce my intrigued nine year old to the sounds of **Big Boy Bloater**. The 'naturally charming' rhythm and blues don't disappoint as he tears through 'That Ain't My Name' and 'Toasting the town with Sweet and Brown.'

The Sports Field stage on day one belonged to **Danny Bryant** who threatened to tear down the big top with a series of searing solos. Bryant



twisted and tortured new shapes from his guitar as a packed tent roared their approval. Having been happily battered into submission by the blues rock of Bryant, I finished day one with the sounds of soulful siren **Kyla Brox**. Kyla offers seemingly effortless vocals and a tight band as she entices the entire river side with a bit of call and response and a mesmeric flute solo.

Day Two. and Kicking off proceedings with a new look, **Stone Mountain Sinners** are on the Sports Field. The band have proved that despite a line-up reshuffle they are getting 'Stronger' every day. The audience show themselves in fine voice during the set, joining the band for a rousing finale of 'She Said Yeah.'



Staying on the field **Troy Redfern** and his band offered to take us to 'The Other Side' with a scintillating set of smouldering blues rock. Troy's guitar swoops whilst flights of cello add to an evocative mix. A massive roar of approval greets the frontman's young son on second guitar for a run at 'John the Revelator.'

In the church people are worshipping the Boss, not the one up above but Bruce Springsteen with the Sounds of Springsteen on stage. **Stephen Steinhaus** and cohorts take the congregation to the 'Streets Of Philadelphia' and 'Golden Days' via 'Lucky Town.' Blues fans lay down their guard as the Upton Musical director and Weekend Compare shuffle down the aisles for the inevitable sing-along to 'Born In The USA.'



Next, 'The Girls Are Back In Town.' **Never the Bride** open with 'Sympathy of the Devil' and a lung-busting 'Living Tree' before they launch into an acapella rendition of 'Mercedes Benz' which moves effortlessly into 'Me And Bobby McGee.'



At a young age music teachers told **Keith Xander**, that he would never play a two-handed instrument with a prosthetic hand. They should try telling that to the scores of people that lined the streets of Upton as **Xander and The Peace Pirates** proved just why they are now one of the most highly regarded live bands in the country. The band's unique take on soulful blues rock had the town rocking to its core

Last act for day two: **Wille and The Bandits**. Are there any superlatives that have yet to be uttered about the Cornwall based trio? There's a reason why the band drew arguably one of the biggest crowds of the festival and why the Daily Telegraph describe the band as 'one of the best bands in the country.' Wille's gravelly vocals and virtuosic guitar work, the expressive six string bass of Matthew Brooks and the inventive rhythms of Andrew Naumann had the field captivated from the off.



Day Three. And what better way to start a Sunday off than a hearty debate, no I'm not talking about Andrew Marr discussing how the country is going to ruin, in Upton there are more pressing concerns: What are the blues? A hand-picked panel attempt to find and answer and field questions from a busy room.

The next obvious next port of call on a Sunday is the church, but there are few services like the one delivered by **Ruben Dobbs** and **Joey Mitchell** aka **Swampcandy**. Opening their sermon with 'Aberdeen,' the band soon encourage the packed out congregation to join in for a little gospel call and response during 'Roll, Jordan, Roll.'



Boffo's Wake provide a break from the blues, delivering an energetic set of what only can be only be described as high octane, Balkan inspired, gypsy punk meets ska-cabaret. They even give us a bedraggled canter through Haddaway's 'What Is Love,' much to the delight of the Sunday mass.

As the day draws on, the well-oiled Upton machine cranks towards the final curtain call. Back in the always crammed church, the acoustic stage's host, **Trevor Steger**, takes the final slot of the day to showcase the recently released 'Sawdust Man.' Over at **The Riverside Dino Baptiste** sends people home happy with a bit of boogie-woogie.

I finish up with Shrewsbury based blues rockers the **Rainbreakers**. They never disappoint, taking influences from the late sixties and early seventies and adding a contemporary twist. The band serve huge slices of infectious rock infused with melodic blues. Frontman **Ben Edwards**, puts the final exclamation point on Upton Blues 2019 with a scintillating performance that no one wants to end.



As ever, the organisers, artists, stage hands and volunteers that help deliver such an incredible and popular event, year in year out deserve all the credit I'm sure will flood their way.

To answer my own original question: What is the blues? Well I'm still not sure I can describe the widening sound of the genre, but surely 'the blues' is that feeling when you have to return to the mundane after a brilliant weekend in (mostly) sunny Upton-upon-Severn. Long live **Upton Blues Festival!**

Will Munn (Full review at <https://rhythmbooze.tumblr.com/>)

Photography: Graham Munn



# Old Bush Blues 2019

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## Thursday 01 August 2019

**Ben Smith**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Bad Manners**

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

**Make Mine A Double**

Tank, Gloucester

**Gordon Wood**

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

**Mojo Hand**

Patrick Nehoda, Gloucester

**King Biscuit Boys**

Peppers, Gloucester

**The Underscore Orkestra**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

**NCS Worcester: Just Say Yes Fest, (Charity For Headway)**

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

**Sean Jeffery**

Oil Basin Brew House, Worcester

**Will Jay Through The Ages**

Arches, Bewdley

## Friday 02 August 2019

**Definktely Mighbe, Adored**

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Majesty - A Tribute To Queen**

The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

**6 Out Of 10**

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

**Union Of Strings**

The Exmouth Arms, Cheltenham

**The Test Pilots**

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

**Ged Wilson**

The Cheltenham Stable, Cheltenham

**Memphis Sundogs**

The Strand, Cheltenham

**Mike Allen**

Brewhouse & Kitchen, Cheltenham

**Some Guys Have All The Luck: The Rod Stewart Story**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Mimosa**

The Doverdale Arms, Droitwich

**Stuart James**

The Gardeners Arms, Evesham

**Chloe Mogg**

The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

**Cracker And The Woodpeckers**

The Queens Head, Wolverly

**Sun Fire**

The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

**Limelight Sessions 3: Luke Concannon, Elles Bailey & Issaco**

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

**Hannah & Brian**

Red Lion, Evesham

**Polly Edwards**

Bluebell Inn, Malvern

**Damon T**

Tank, Gloucester

**Ewan Pollock**

Ye Olde Talbot Hotel, Worcester

**Kerry Smyth**

Hickory's Smokehouse, Worcester

**The Leylines**

West End Farm Campsite, Gloucester

**Jay & Eli**

The Bell Inn, St Johns, Worcester

**Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds**

The Hunters Inn, Longdon

**Dave Onions**

Seven Stars, Kidderminster

**Patrick Nehoda**

Patrick Nehoda, Gloucester

**David Reilly**

PULP Coffee & Wine Bar, Gloucester

**Sons Of The Delta**

Peppers, Gloucester

**Sultana Brothers**

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

**Jay & Eli**

The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**Verity White, Ria Plays**

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**Fred Zeppelin (Led Zeppelin Tribute)**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Gunrunner**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Poppy WS**

No3a, Bromsgrove

**Jay & Eli**

The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**The Lost Boys**

The Park Gate Inn, Bromsgrove

**The Reflections**

The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

**Over Atlantic**

Mettis - HDA Sports Club, Redditch

## Saturday 03 August 2019

**Familiar Spirit, Immerse, Avira, Glass Kingdom**

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Swede Dreamz**

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Paul "Chief" O'Neill**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Rattlesnake Jake**

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

**Gareth Lemon**

The Botanist, Cheltenham

**Laughing In The Face Of, Teresa Banks, Layman's Terms,**

**Horror On The High Seas**

The Mitre, Stourbridge

**Wheel Sea**

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

**Life**

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

**The Boys From The All Night Chemist**

The Maverick, Stourbridge

**Catch 23**

The Westcroft, Droitwich

**Facestealers**

The Oak Apple, Worcester

**Free At Last**

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

**The Reflections**

Stanton Village Club, Evesham

**Steve Ajao Blues Giants**

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

**Waw Live Band Night**

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

**The Dusk Brothers**

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

**Accolade**

The Virgin Tavern, Worcester

**Lounge Toad**

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The Will Killeen Band**

The Ducker, Leominster

**Moose Jaw**

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Blue Street**

Peppers, Gloucester

**Rainbreakers**

The Globe, Hay-On-Wye

**Mike Ruddick 'The Perfect Way'**

Left Bank Village, Hereford

**Hot Rox**

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

**The Barebacks**

The Queens Head, Hereford

**James Hollingsworth**

Red Lion Peterstow, Hereford

**Fizzy Duo**

The Sportsman, Kidderminster

**Just Kaz**

The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

**I, The Lion, Lake Acacia, Death Is A Girl**

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**The Barebacks**

The Queens Head, Leominster

**Spence Cater**

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Reload**

The Cricketers, Worcester

**Howling' Matt**

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

**Chewie**

The Three Horseshoes, Malvern

**Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds**

Gloster Arms, Malvern

**Matt Peplow**

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

**Foyer Folk: Oujamaflip**

Number 8, Pershore

**The Peas**

Piesse Of The Piddle, Wyre Piddle, Pershore

**Shades Of Grey**

The Old Chestnut Tree Inn, Pershore

**The Blackhawks**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Rick Lambe**

Black Tap, Redditch

## Sunday 04 August 2019

### **Carpenters Gold**

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

### **Stourbridge Pride**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **Union Of Strings**

The Royal, Cheltenham

### **The Follies**

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

### **Cracker & The Rockin 88's**

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

### **The Pasadena Roof Orchestra**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

### **Jame Knight**

The Boathouse, Upton On Severn

### **Spangles, 4 Piece Rock N Roll Band, 3Pm Till 6Pm**

Englands Glory, Gloucester

### **Sunday Sessions (Noon)**

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

### **Vo Fletcher (5:30Pm)**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Melissa**

The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

### **Dave Beale**

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

### **Polly Edwards**

The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

### **The Hills Angels (5pm)**

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

### **Sunday Session Josie Field (3pm)**

No3a, Bromsgrove

## Tuesday 06 August 2019

### **Clive Carroll**

The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

## Wednesday 07 August 2019

### **Gordon Wood**

Bayshill Inn, Cheltenham

### **Big Joe Bone**

Cafe Rene, Gloucester

## Thursday 08 August 2019

### **Junior, Cupcake Diaz, Valensole, Down Not Out**

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Matt Hopkins Band**

Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

### **Thank You For The Music**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

### **The Smokin' Tones**

Worley S At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

### **Kelsey Bovey**

Tank, Gloucester

### **Power-Up Promotions: Rosso, Lakshmi, Esk Forte**

Left Bank Village, Hereford

### **Weirdshire**

Babar Cafe, Hereford

### **Will Killeen**

The Plough, Worcester

### **Rosso, Lakshmi, Esk Forte,**

Speakeasy, Hereford

### **Jake Riley**

Arches, Bewdley

## Friday 09 August 2019

### **Folk in The Foyer: Pete Morton**

Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

### **The Strays, The Delray Rockets, Snakerattlers**

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Beautiful Trauma**

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### **More Human Than Human, Molly Karloff**

2 Pigs, Cheltenham

### **Wingwalkers**

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

### **Velvet Love & The Memphis One**

The Royal, Cheltenham

### **Final 4**

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

### **The Arboretum, Mutante, The Blue Dive**

Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

### **Thank You For The Music**

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

### **Emellie Eleonore, Ruben Seabright, Immy And The Boatman,**

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife (Acoustic)

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

### **Simon Garcia**

The Three Horseshoes, Alveley, Stourbridge

### **The Ska45s**

Unicorn Inn, Stourbridge

## 38 SLAP AUGUST

### **Satellite Down**

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

### **Clockwork**

Worley S At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

### **Memphis Mike, The Reflections**

Evesham Hospital Club, Evesham

### **Simon Wallace**

The Vine, Worcester

### **Giant & The Georges**

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

### **Witcher**

Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

### **The Strangers**

Red Lion, Evesham

### **Olivia Fern**

The Globe, Hay-On-Wye

### **Hills Angels**

Bluebell Inn, Malvern

### **Terry**

The Bell Inn, St Johns, Worcester

### **James Richards**

Tank, Gloucester

### **Vince Ballard, Remi Harris, Darren Beale, Jon Ballard, Blues**

Night, [www.yardbirdarts.com](http://www.yardbirdarts.com)

Yardbird Arts Club, Tenbury Wells

### **Jamie Knight**

Colwall Park Hotel, Worcester

### **Drew Bryant**

Brewhouse & Kitchen, Gloucester

### **Free Spirit Sounds**

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### **Lee Boswell**

Left Bank Village, Hereford

### **The Lost Chord**

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

### **Shebeat & Boz**

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

### **Jazz in The Garden - Hoi Polloi**

Hereford Cathedral, Hereford

### **Simon Wallace**

The Vine, Kidderminster

### **Alvin And The Angry Barrels, Drunk in Charge**

The Queens Head, Leominster

### **Damon T And Mark**

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

### **The Patsy Gamble Band**

Royal Oak, North Woodchester, Stroud

### **Tyler Massey Trio**

The Wellington, Malvern

### **Cookie**

No3a, Bromsgrove

### **Jamie Knight**

Colwall Park Hotel, Malvern

## Saturday 10 August 2019

### **Totally Dynamite**

The Oast House, Redditch

### **Ultra 90s**

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### **Steve Ajao And The Blues Giants**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **Gene Geenie**

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

### **The Boxcar Mavericks**

Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

### **Gasoline & Matches**

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

### **Connections**

Cleeve Hill Golf Club, Cheltenham

### **O.C.D**

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

### **Slowjin Acoustic**

The Strand, Cheltenham

### **Hard Graft**

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

### **Facestealers**

The Cross Keys, Malvern

### **Black Heart Angels**

Worley S At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

### **Chiggy Pig Punk**

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

### **Kick The Clown, Sick Of The Riot, The Earnest Spears**

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

### **Vince Ballard, Remi Harris, Darren Beale, Jon Ballard, Blues**

Night, [www.yardbirdarts.com](http://www.yardbirdarts.com)

Yardbird Arts Club, Tenbury Wells

### **Clarksville Mountain Band**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Lucy Horwood**

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Route 61

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

### Brass Beats

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### Kickback

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

### Jay & Eli

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### Ransom

Far Forest Show, Callow Hill, Kidderminster

### Radio Rumours

Clebury Mortimer Sports&Social Club, Kidderminster

### The Yesta Yrs

The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

### Sultana Brother

The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon, Kidderminster

### Kezza Belle

Far Forest Caravan Park, Kidderminster

### Steve Bonham

The Monkland Arms, Leominster

### Mustard Allegro

The Price Albert, Stroud

### Jake Riley

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

### Andre Rieu'S 2019 Maastricht Concert

Malvern Theatre, Malvern

### Vintage Festival - Bands

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### Silver Dollar Honkytonk, Ags Connolly, Kate Ellis

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### Legend

The Dog And Pheasant, Bromsgrove

## Sunday 11 August 2019

**Worcester Show - Amie Woodyatt, Chloe Mogg, Elisha Green, Kringo Blue, Ruben Seabright, The Vht's, The Humdrum Express,) The Connor Maher Quartet, The Strays, The Social Ignition, The Rocker Covers (12-5pm)**  
Gheluvelt Park, Worcester

### Square Peg! (2pm)

Babar Cafe, Hereford

### Paul Bridgwater & The Electric Blues Rebellion

JoeJoejims, Birmingham

### Sound Of Springsteen

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

### Andy Brotherton & Friends

Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

### Electric Blues Rebellion

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

### Night Crawlers

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

### The Black Rabbit Band

The Queens Head, Stourbridge

### Follicles

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

### Chloë Elliot

Kings Head, Upton On Severn

### Hired Guns

Café Rene, Gloucester

### Sunday Sessions

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

### Swamp Candy (5:30pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

### Black Porch (3pm)

Richmond Place Club, Hereford

### Rod Stewart Tribute Act

Holme Lacy House Hotel, Hereford

### Darren James

The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

### Andrew Pearce

The Grape Vaults, Leominster

### Mark Leedham

The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

### The Will Killeen Band (5pm)

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

### Malvern Chase Brass Band (2pm)

Priory Park Great Malvern, Malvern

### Sunday Sessions Drew Hall (3pm)

No3a, Bromsgrove

### Griff Collins

Red Lion, Evesham

## Tuesday 13 August 2019

**'About An Hour': John Brierley – Organ Recital**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## Wednesday 14 August 2019

### Kris Dollimore

Café Rene, Gloucester

### Tyler Massey Trio

The Plough, Worcester

## Thursday 15 August 2019

**Red Method, Dishonour The Crown, Proteus, Isolation**  
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

### Just Adam

Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

### Steve Ferbrache

Tank, Gloucester

### Lec

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### John Otway

The Iron Road, Pershore

## Friday 16 August 2019

### Flash - A Tribute To Queen

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### Jon Townley

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

### Missing Lynx

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

### The Rooters

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

### Fights & Fires, Brassick + Support

Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

### Shenanigans John Stranks, The Vonics, 3Legsforward

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

### The Straight Aces

Worley'S At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

### The Follicles

The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

### Big Ginge Trio

Red Lion, Evesham

### Pizzatramp

Café Rene, Gloucester

### Supernova

The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

### Ellie Gowers

Tank, Gloucester

### Jamie Knight

Ye Olde Talbot Hotel, Worcester

### DJ Andrew & Marston & Friends (Musicians' Set)

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

### Highway 61

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### Wicked Splinters, Brent Lee

The Globe, Hay-On-Wye

### Two Push Charlie

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

### Vintage Inc

Millers Arms, Pershore

### Jazz In The Garden - Debs Hancock Quartet

Hereford Cathedral, Hereford

### Shady Past

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

### Museum After Hours: Star Wars Special (5Pm)

Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery, Worcester

### Harmonica Nick

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

### Vintage Inc.

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### The Exiles

The Hop Pole, Bewdley

### Dan Greenaway

No3a, Bromsgrove

## Saturday 17 August 2019

### Killer Rhapsody

Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

### Spice Forever

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### Bebe And The Trojans

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### Journeyman

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### Common People

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

### Woo Town Hillbillies

Kings Head, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham

### C T Riders

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

### Seven Pounds Fifty Pence

Offenham Royal British Legion Club, Evesham

### Loudeater

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

### Rule No.1

Worley'S At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

### Hailbails Rock N Roll

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

### Jibbafish

Bar Severn, Upton On Severn

### Believe - The Cher Songbook

Swan Theatre, Worcester

### Groovyhead

The Chestnut, Worcester

**Ben Baker**  
One Eyed Jacks, Gloucester

**Claire Boswell**  
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Kick The Fridge**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Gunnrunner**  
The Express Inn, Malvern

**Fiddlebop**  
The Globe, Hay-On-Wye

**Here-4-D Homeless Festival**  
Left Bank Village, Hereford

**Bad Spaniel**  
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

**Bodenham's Big Barn Bash: Izzy The Push**  
Bodenham Arboretum, Nr Kidderminster

**Maida**  
The Sportsman, Kidderminster

**Titanium**  
The Boar's Head Pub, Kidderminster

**Witcher**  
Malvern Motorcycle Club, Malvern

**2Xtreme**  
The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

**Meg Shaw**  
Hoppley'S, Bewdley

**Angelfest (2pm)**  
Kingsland Millennium Green, Leominster

**Gareth Jones**  
The Angel, Leominster

**Huw Knight And Viv Bell**  
The Monkland Arms, Leominster

**Holly Carter**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Suzie**  
The Carlton Club, Stroud

**Hipflask Virgins, Maximum Zero, + Support**  
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

**The Lizzy Legacy**  
The Kings Head, Stroud

**The Follicles**  
Piccolo's, Bewdley

## Sunday 18 August 2019

**Andy Wickett, World Service**  
Alestones, Redditch

**Meg Shaw**  
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

**Over The Hill**  
The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

**Sunday Sessions Outdoor Bandeoake**  
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

**3 Bone Joint (5:30pm)**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**2Tone Revue**  
The Boar's Head, Kidderminster

**Nicole**  
The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

**Meg Shaw**  
The Black Star, Stourport

**Jay & Eli**  
Worley'S At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn, Stourport

**Vo Fletcher**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**The Hills Angels**  
The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

**Sauce City Jazzmen (2pm)**  
Priory Park Great Malvern, Malvern

**Sun Fire (5pm)**  
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

**Badlands Country**  
Three Counties, Malvern

**Sid Harvey & Steve Kent**  
Red Lion, Evesham

## Tuesday 20 August 2019

**'About An Hour': Duo Armande – Let'S Dance!**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## Wednesday 21 August 2019

**Stiff Little Fingers, Eddie & The Hotrods**  
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

**He Washboard Resonators**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

## Thursday 22 August 2019

**Massive (Australia), Leontas, Hired Guns, Up Shot**  
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Jess Silk**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Gareth Lemon**  
The Botanist, Cheltenham

**Paul O'neil**  
Tank, Gloucester

**Leonie & Gina**  
Garway Moon Inn, Hereford

## 40 SLAP AUGUST

**Poquet, Tom Braggins**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Word Of Mouth, Luna Orchid, Zetland Road**  
Babar Cafe, Hereford

## Friday 23 August 2019

**Don't Worry, Hot Beige, Pool, Brighter, King Cove**  
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**A Band Called Malice**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Black Magic – The Little Mix Show 2019**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Rats in The Kitchen**  
The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

**The Transporters**  
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

**The Big Ginge**  
Smokey Joe'S Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

**Clockwork**  
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

**Monkey Jam**  
Brewhouse & Kitchen, Cheltenham

**Faith, Chris Fox, Paul Walker And Karen Pfeiffer, Pete Boddis**  
The Birch And Stock Folk Club, Kidderminster

**Uncover: Liar Liar Single Launch, Lower Loveday, Heinz-Sight**  
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

**Badly Parked Cars**  
Station Inn, Hagley, Stourbridge

**Tyler Massey Trio**  
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

**Dan & King Rich**  
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

**Keith James: The Music Of Yusuf - Cat Stevens**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Josh Edkins**  
Red Lion, Evesham

**Redcoats**  
The Anchor Inn & Boathouse, Worcester

**Dan Graham**  
Tank, Gloucester

**Bryn Thomas**  
Lower Lode Inn, Gloucester

**Laura Davies**  
The New Innhotel, Gloucester

**Lost Highway**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Kate Noakes And Quirk**  
The Globe, Hay-On-Wye

**Tyler Massey**  
Left Bank Village, Hereford

**The Billy Fury Years**  
The Courtyard, Hereford

**Head Honcho**  
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

**Jazz in The Garden - Nuadha Quartet (1Pm)**  
Hereford Cathedral, Hereford

**Second Self, You Want Fox**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**Duane Conn & The Connections, He Small Town Minds Trio**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**The Leon Daye Band**  
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

**Gravy Train**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Stuart James**  
No3a, Bromsgrove

**Skinny Molly Feat Mike Estes Of Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Sharpeez**  
The Iron Road, Pershore

**André Rieu'S 2019 Maastricht Concert**  
Number 8, Pershore

**Bad Medicine**  
Lickey End Social Club, Bromsgrove

## Saturday 24 August 2019

**The Illegal Eagles 2019**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**The Rain Trees (Andy Lindsay & Zoe Devonish)**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Good Thing Going**  
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

**Cracker & The Woodpeckers**  
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

**GR-V111**  
Bewdley Brewery's Street Food

**Doc Rock**  
The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

**Rumour**  
The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

**Jade Ford**  
The Gardeners Arms, Evesham

**Jibbafish**  
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

**Rolly's Syndicate**  
Worley'S At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Foxbite**  
The Firefly, Hereford

**Witcher**  
The Cavalier, Kidderminster

**Jazz Night - Sauce City Jazz**  
The Hall At Royal Porcelain Works, Worcester

**Red Hot Riot**  
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

**Bourbon Alley**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**2Tone Revue**  
Stourport Marina, Stourport-On-Severn

**The Gloucester Ukulele Band (1pm)**  
The Gallery Tea Room, Gloucester

**Mute The Flute**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Dakka Skanks**  
Babar Cafe, Hereford

**The Forfeits**  
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

**Andy Marlow**  
The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

**The Souled Out Brothers**  
Far Forest Caravan Park, Kidderminster

**Hana Piranha, Elkapath**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**Uncover: The Jericho Racks, Echo Gecco, The Vhts, Slow Tapes**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Suzzi**  
Riverside Caravan Park, Malvern

## Sunday 25 August 2019

**Prone 2 Madness**  
The Talbot, Belbroughton, Bromsgrove

**Woo Town Hillbillies**  
Black Tap, Redditch

**Gene Genie & The Lemon Squeezers**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Steamroller**  
London Inn, Cheltenham

**Amie Flanagan (Micheal Buble Tribute)**  
The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

**I-Party**  
The Red Lion, Amblecote, Stourbridge

**Prone 2 Madness**  
The Talbot, Belbroughton, Stourbridge

**The Delray Rockets**  
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**The Filthy Casuals**  
Olliefest, Ross On Wye

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

**Keith Boulton**  
Red Lion, Evesham

**Terry**  
Bottles, Worcester

**Journeyman**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**The Bridge**  
Deans Walk Inn, Gloucester

**Shy Teds**  
Haresfield Beacon & Railway Hotel, Gloucester

**Marc Davies Band (3Pm)**  
Richmond Place Club, Hereford

**Four & Six (5pm)**  
The Weavers, Kidderminster

**Overproof**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Hipkiss Band**  
The Ale House, Stroud

**Christian Cox**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Jack Blackman**  
The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

**The Follicles**  
The Follicles, Bewdley

**Arrow Valley Brass Band (2pm)**  
Priory Park Great Malvern, Malvern

**Black Mercian (5pm)**  
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

**Feckfest (Noon)**  
Feckenham Cricket Club, Redditch

**Hb Fest**  
The Holly Bush Gorcott Hill, Redditch

## Monday 26 August 2019

**Aaron (2pm)**  
The Royal, Cheltenham

**Ryan Evans**  
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

**Bretforton Silver Band**  
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

**Vo & Tyler**  
The Barrels, Hereford

**The Follicles**  
Ye Olde Crown Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

**Fortfest (4pm)**  
Fort Royal Park, Worcester

**Tiny Tunes**  
Great Malvern Priory, Malvern

## Tuesday 27 August 2019

**Ryan Wyness, Martin Macdonald**  
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**All Hands On Deck**  
The Camp House Inn, Worcester

**Tuesday Tribute - Abba**  
The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

## Wednesday 28 August 2019

**Ulture, Death Is A Girl**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Jazz Club Featuring The Rod Kelly Trio**  
Theoc House, Tewkesbury

## Thursday 29 August 2019

**Smokin Pilchards**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Triple J**  
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Emi Mcdade**  
Tank, Gloucester

**That'll Be The Day 50S 60S & 70S**  
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

**Wayne Hussey (The Mission), Evi Vine**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Eddy Allen**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**That'll Be The Day**  
Malvern Theatre, Malvern

## Friday 30 August 2019

**Tenacious G**  
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Rocketman**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**The Tina Turner Experience Show**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**The Misfitz**  
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

**The Charlton Blues Kings**  
The Cheltenham Stable, Cheltenham

**Big Fat Shorty**  
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

**52 North**  
The Hall At Offenham, Evesham

**Melvin Hancox One Man Show**  
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

**James Baker**  
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

**Scratch Trio: Ibiza Classics Played Live**  
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

**The Fabulous Bordellos**  
The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

**Craig Charles Funk & Soul Club**  
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

**Gallowglass**  
Red Lion, Evesham

**The Heavy Rain Band**  
Café Rene, Gloucester

**Rob McEwen**  
Tank, Gloucester

**Jibbafish**  
Lower Lode Inn, Gloucester

**Dan Greenaway**  
Colwall Park Hotel, Worcester

**Trip For Biscuits**  
The Cosy Club, Worcester

**Rat Pack Olly Murs 50's 60's 80's Mix Night Jon Eselle**  
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Dave Onions**  
The Cock & Maggie Bewdley

**The Lizzy Legacy**  
The Gloucester Irish Club, Gloucester

**Punk & Pint Night**  
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

**Fearless Scoundrels**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**The Rhythm Slingers**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Rock for Midlands Air Ambulance, Rollin Sixes, Up Shot**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**First Offence**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Paul Adams Acoustic Set**  
The Hop Pole, Bewdley

**Jay & Eli**  
The Bluebell Inn, Malvern

**Dan Greenaway**  
Colwall Park Hotel, Malvern

## Saturday 31 August 2019

### Chalky

The Winyates Bar & Grill, Redditch

### The Loveless

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### Supernova

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar - The Lye, Stourbridge

### The Bitten, Shackleford, Nievien, Bogans

The Mitre, Stourbridge

### Witcher

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

### The Outcasts

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

### The Front Covers

The Ashwood Inn, Stourbridge

### 'Behind The Music'

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

### The Smokin' Tones

The Maverick, Stourbridge

### The Gatecrashers

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

### Steve Ajao Blues Giants

Worley S At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

### Carol Lee-Sampson & Don Mac

Green Dragon, Malvern

### The Filthy Casuals

The Jollybrewmaster, Cheltenham

### Rock Against Dementia: Project Revise, Insomniacs, Time Of

The Mouth, Like Giants, Ashley Falls, Yikes, Skinny Dog

The Railway, Redditch

### Witcher

The Black Star, Stourport

### Ready For Freddie

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

### Chewie

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

### Mzleading

The Fern Ticket, Cinderford

### Strum

The Village Inn, Beoley, Worcester

### Will Killeen Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

### Chimps On A Bike

Wheat Pieces Hungry Horse, Tewkesbury

### Hear The Spheres

Woodpeckers Sports And Social Club, Gloucester

### The Rhythm Slingers

Tall Ships, Gloucester

### Blacklisted Mc, Elkapath At The Purge Party

The Lower George Inn, Gloucester

### Anna

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### The Reflections

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### Huw Eddy & The Carnival

The Globe, Hay-On-Wye

### Vintage Inc

Virgin Tavern, Worcester

### Darkshire Presents : Hereford Skatepark Charity Jam 2019

Hereford Skate Park, Hereford

### Jay & Eli

The Cricketers, Worcester

### Freddi Smart

Habberly Club, Kidderminster

### Natalie Ann

The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

### Forever Queen (Queen Tribute)

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### Rock Weekend in Aid Of Midlands Air Ambulance, Wizards

Of Oz, Kharmagheaddon

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

### Danadra

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

## Local Festivals

**1-4 August Gloucester Rhythm & Blues Festival**  
Various Venues, Gloucester

**2-4 August The Drunken Monkey Rock Festival**  
Wellend Road, Upton on Severn

**8-11 August Lakefest**  
Eastnor Castle, Eastnor

**8-10 August Worcester Beer Festival**  
Pitchcroft, Worcester

**9-11 August Down On The Farm**  
Abbeydore, Golden Valley

**10 August Artrix Vitage Festival**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**16-18 August Old Bush Blues Festival**  
Old Bush, Callow End, Worcester

**16-18 August Truefest**  
Baskerville Hall, Hay-on-Wye

**16-18 August Sunrise**  
Kentchurch Estate, Hereford

**16-18 August Pershore Jazz Festival**  
Pershore College, Pershore

## Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

**Until 10th Portfolio 18 - 'Variations on 18'** Pershore Number 8

**Until 13th - Sara Hayward Pilgrimage** - an inner journey  
Worcester cathedral

**Until 2nd sept - Sara Hayward Cutting Corners:** Colour works  
Worcester Cathedral

**Until 4th Sept Hilary Roberts - 'Flowers, Fields & Forests'**  
Pershore Number 8

**2nd- 4th Summer Jam** at the Brewery Quarter Cheltenham

**3rd The Fete in the Park,** Pump House Environment Centre Worcester

**7th Poetry and Pint night,** Worcester Arts workshop

**9th Alien (15)** Artirix, Bromsgrove

**10th Street Arts Festival** Worcester Arts Workshop

**10th Vintage Festival,** Artirix, Bromsgrove

**11th The Worcester Show,** Gheluvelt Park

**17-18 August Morton Stanley Festival**  
Morton Stanley Park, Redditch

**17-18 August Kidderminster Fringe Fest**  
By The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**18 August KEMPfest**  
KEMP Hospice, Stourport

**23-25 August Beermageddon**  
Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove

**23-26 August Swan fest**  
The Swan, Cheltenham

**23-25 August Stroud Fringe**  
Various locations, Stroud

**23-25 August Upton Sunshine Festival**  
Upton on Severn

**23-25 August Camper Calling**  
Ragley Hall, Warwick

**30-31 August Moseley Folk Festival**  
Moseley, Birmingham

**Worcester Beer & Cider Festival** - Worcester Racecourse

**08 Aug: Skewwhiff, Andy V's Random Reggae Session**

**09 Aug: Ya Ya Logic, Bhangra Smash Up, Come Together**

**10 Aug: Worcester Ukelele Club, Zetland Road,**

**Swampcandy, Humdrum Express, Hereford Big Band**

**12th-15th Vita and Virginia (12A),** Courtyard Hereford

**16th Museum After Hours Star Wars Special**  
Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

**17th & 18th Kidderminster Fringe Festival**  
Batemans Car Park, Kidderminster

**19th-22nd Gloria Bell (15),** Courtyard Hereford

**22nd Dear Listener,** spoken word at Boston Tea Party Worcester

**23rd-26th Worcestershire Open Studios**  
83 venues across Worcestershire

**24th- until 29th Sept Sculpture Gardens,** Jinny Ring Centre, Hanbury.

**Until Sept Grayson Perry Exhibition** at Croome National Trust

**20th until 14th Sept. May the Toys be with you**

Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

**Unitl 30th Aug - The Lost Hamlet of Croome** - Croome Court, Worcester

**31st - Our Man in the Moone'**

Whitbourne Village Hall's playing field 4:15pm

**For Arts listings email: [arts@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:arts@slapmag.co.uk)**

# Music Sessions/Open Mics

## **Every Monday - Folk Night**

Worley's, The Swan, Stourport

## **Every Monday night - Acoustic Night**

The Rollin Hills Restaurant, Upton Upon Severn

## **1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session**

The Pickled Plum, Pershore

## **First Monday - Open Mic**

The Sociable Beer Company

## **4th Mon - Singaround**

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

## **Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights**

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

## **Last Tues - Folk Night**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

## **First Tues - Folk Session run by Phil Knowles**

Rose and Crown, Feckenham

## **First Tues - The Courtyard Open Mic Night**

Cafe Bar, The Courtyard, Hereford

## **Acoustic/Folk Session, Every Tuesday**

The Plough Inn, Wollaston, Stourbridge

## **Every other Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band**

The Talbot, Knightwick

## **1st & 3rd Thursday of every month,**

The Cross Inn, Kinver, Stourbridge

## **First Tues - For 12-19 year olds 7pm**

Pershore 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, Berrow 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 Gracie**

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 Muchdew 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 Oil 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

# THE MARRS BAR

AUG SEPT 2019

Wayne Hussey  
Thursday 29th Aug



**Friday August 2**

**Fred Zeppelin (Led Zeppelin tribute)**

£9 in advance £11 on the door

**Saturday August 10**

**Silver Dollar Honkytonk, Ags**

**Connolly, Kate Ellis**

£13 in advance £15 on the door

**Thursday August 22**

**Poquet, Tom Braggins**

£5 on the door

**Friday August 23**

**Duane Conn & The Connections**

**The Small Town Minds Trio**

£3.50 in advance £5 on the door

**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

**Friday September 6**

**The Len Price 3, The Humdrum Express**

£9 in advance £12 on the door

**Saturday September 7**

**The Feelgood Band**

**(Dr Feelgood tribute)**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Sunday September 8**

**Jasper Malone**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

**Friday - Sunday September 13-15**

**Worcester Music Festival**

**FREE ENTRY**

**Friday September 20**

**The GT's**

£7 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday September 21**

**Kinship Carer Fundraiser**

**Sunday September 22**

**Son Of John**

£6 in advance £8 on the door

**Friday September 27**

**Syked (tribute too John Sykes era**

**Whitesnake, Thin Lizzy + Blue Murder)**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday September 28**

**Faux Fighters (Foo Fighters tribute),**

**Altered Voltage**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Wednesdays - Jamming night - FREE entry**

[www.marrsbar.co.uk](http://www.marrsbar.co.uk)

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**Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue**

**Available for private hire**