

SLAP

Issue 97

Nov 2019

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SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers



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Hello everyone and welcome to the Winter of discontent, don't worry, it'll soon be over, maybe...

In these dark days of political turbulence, it's hard to imagine if we can ever go back to a time when people had respect for each other, whatever their views and opinions. But we can't let the political elite divide us in this way any longer, society is breaking down and it's destroying friendships, families and communities. I for one will be glad when it's all over. But until then let's concentrate on the things that bring us together - music and the arts....

As usual, in this issue we look forward to all the wonderful arts events and exhibitions taking place around the three counties. Our front cover is by illustrator Beth Quarmby whose exhibition runs throughout November at the Gloucester Guild Hall. It's comforting to know that the arts communities can break through the divisive political climate and maintain the ability to unite and initiate things independently.

A perfect example of this is the Worcester Music Festival that brings hundreds and acts together in dozens of venues around the City of Worcester, raising much needed funds for the Foodbank Charity, to help the many people living in crisis in modern Britain, see page 38 for the latest news and the highly successful photography competition.

Of course the arts is far from immune to the effects of austerity as the Artist Workhouse in Studley has had to make the very sad decision to close its doors this month, after four years at the space due to increased costs.

And just to end on a positive note, Upton Jazz may well make it's 35th anniversary after all, with plans afoot to save the festival...

Save - Ed



Cover Artwork: 'I Couldn't Bear to be Without You' by Beth Quarmby whose exhibition opens on Saturday 2nd - Thursday 28th Nov 2019 at Gloucester Guildhall



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SLAP NOVEMBER 3

Creative Gateway

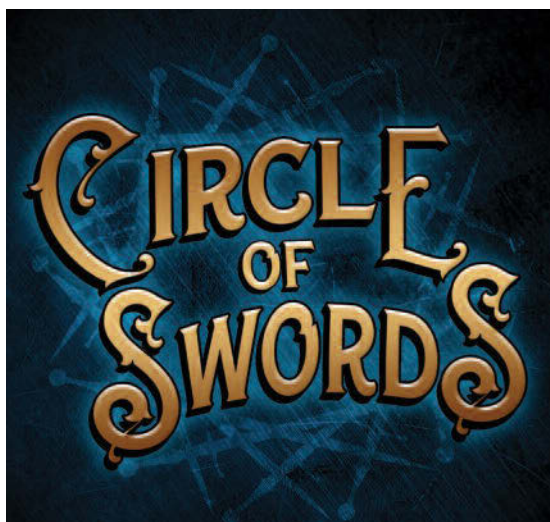
The project to redesign and refurbish the railway arches between Worcester's Foregate Street, The Hive and the river has been given the green light to create a 'gateway' for small creative businesses. Two local firms (architects and construction) have been appointed to carry out the £4.5m work to design and carry out the build of work and creative spaces underneath eight of the arches - with the aid of a £3m boost from the Arts Council. Four festivals are scheduled to take place beginning with a Festival of Light next January - more at thearchesworchester.co.uk

Radio ReCon

The venue previously known as ReCon in Malvern has re-opened under the name Malvern Radio as a meeting, events and private hire space - with possible cinema nights also mentioned in their publicity - sadly no mention of other arts or music events though...

Offender Fender Fix



The UK's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has accused Fender of illegal price fixing by restricting the discounts online retailers are able to offer on its guitars, forcing them to adhere to a minimum sale price. This 'price maintenance' is illegal and makes it hard for customers to find good deals as Casio found a couple of months ago when CMA fined them £3.7m for similar practices. A final ruling is expected before the year end...



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The 3rd Degree

After Dylanology and Beatlesology, there's now a definitive academic study of the Rolling Stones as 'compared to their contemporaries scholarly literature on the band is desperately thin'. Published by Cambridge University Press the Cambridge Companion to the Rolling Stones aims to redress the balance by 'exploring their songwriting strategies, the relation between their use of musical styles and larger musico-cultural trends, influences on modern art, film and design, and their anticipation of economic and stylistic trends in the industry'. Ideal stocking filler for your hardcore Stones fan we reckon...

The Footlights Fantastic

A new performing arts school in the city opened its doors to all aspiring actors, singers and dancers with an open day. More than 70 children attended with a host of parents and carers to celebrate the grand opening of Footlights Worcester based at Tudor Grange Academy. The students were able to try their hands at acting, singing and dancing and closed the day with two complete performances. More at:

www.facebook.com/FootlightsWorcester

Get to Know Becky

Bewdley's Becky Hill will be touring the UK next year to coincide with the release of the 25-year-old's mini-album Get to Know, featuring the hit song Afterglow. The singer/songwriter rose to fame after auditioning in the first season of The Voice UK, infamously swearing live on peaktime Saturday television at an apparent microphone malfunction. Despite this she reached the finals stage and became the first The Voice UK contestant to score a UK number one when the song Gecko (Overdrive) topped the UK Singles Chart. Becky will play Birmingham's O2 Institute on April 3 - more at www.beckyhillofficial.com

Jazz protected for now

Last month it was revealed that due to dwindling volunteer numbers and rising costs, the future of Upton Jazz Festival, which has been a staple in the community since 1986. Plans are afoot to help save the critically acclaimed event.

Jon Parsons, one of the festival's trustees has said that part of the plan will see a reduced festival programme for two years, while costs are recovered as well as holding events throughout the town without the use of outdoor venues and marquees to reduce set-up costs.

Upton town council held a meeting to discuss the future of the festival and what could be done to secure its success, with council members agreeing to allow the use of the Memorial Hall at a reduced rate to the organisers saying "Although we would not normally agree to something like this, the alternative was not to have a jazz festival at all" agreeing that the world famous jazz festival should be protected.

With the festival's 35th anniversary next year the festival organisers and local council members hope that enough can be done to ensure the success of next year's festival, as well as the success of the festival in years to come.



Friday November 1
THE HUMDRUM EXPRESS
MEME DETROIT
SHOTGUN MARMALADE

Friday November 8

FCS

INWARDS
MUTANTE
ROSEBUD

Friday November 15

ONSHORE CHARITY GIG

THE VHT'S
RUBEN SEABRIGHT
TREE OF WYRD
SLEUTH

Saturday November 16

X-RAYS
THE VHT'S
+ SPECIAL GUEST HEADLINERS

Friday November 22

UNCOVER PRESENTS

PHIL WHITEHEAD [SINGLE LAUNCH]

Tuesday November 26

UNCOVER PRESENTS

SOME BODIES
THE DEVIL & JOE JOSEPH

Friday November 29

PIPELINE PROMOTIONS

LORDLESS
THE JERICHO RACKS
HANNAH LAW

Saturday November 30

THE MFFS
+ Support

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Gin Lane

That dodgy ol' alleyway returns this month as part of the **Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre**. Come down to **Gin Lane** on Fri 29th and Sat 30th November to meet those shady inhabitants and have a little fun and surprise!



"We opened in November 2015 with the newspaper headline 'Artists Workhouse creates a Storm', the journalist was of course referring to severe weather conditions but he did create an appropriate metaphor for the energy and excitement that had built, the anticipation of what we might achieve. Subsequently, we have enjoyed a fabulous 4 years continuously building an extensive artist's community and celebrated many successes.

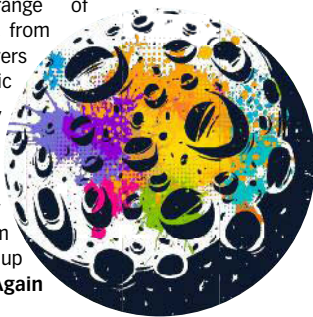


Andy Burton

You can also catch the **Victorian Flower Seller** out on the streets Thurs 28th and Sun 29th Nov and if you happen to be at the **Worcester Christmas Lights Switch** on Thurs 21st then look out for the colourful cleaning lady **Peggy** - she's there to spruce up your festive faces!

Under the Moon Festival

The finale event for the **Kidderminster Arts and Food Festival 2019** is happening on Sat 2nd Nov. **Under the Moon Festival** features a diverse range of performances for all ages, from cosmic interactive adventurers **The Mothership**, sonic soundscapes from **Inwards**, moon inspired dance courtesy of **Dancefest**, mass choir sounds from **Got 2 Sing's** Bewdley group, acoustic bliss from **Humble Helios** and pop up sing song from **Play it Again Dan**.



There's arts activities from **Spare Room Arts**, walkabouts, craft maker stalls and food and drink. You can get tickets on the door.....

Kidderminster Town Hall Saturday 2nd November. 5.30pm - 10pm. Tickets £5 Adult. £2 child (aged 3-16).

Under 3's Free. Family ticket £10 (includes 2 adults and up to 3 children ages 3-16yrs).

www.kaffestival.org.uk

Art space closes its doors

Artist Workhouse in Studley has recently had to make the very sad decision to close its doors on the 30th of this month after four years of exciting arts at the space. The increased costs associated with the running of the gallery and studio space have meant that it is no longer financially viable to continue. Here is a statement from Director **Dawn Harris**:



ArtistsWorkhouse is not defined by the plaque on the wall bearing its name or the bricks and mortar of the building, its identity lies within the people who have been part of it. AW has thrived through the hard work and commitment of the people involved in it and I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has been connected with and supported us over the years.

It has been a pleasure to have welcomed you, worked alongside you, shared ideas and inspiration with you and brought many exciting plans to fruition, I do sincerely hope that we will do so again at some point in the future.

In the meantime I would like to send you my sincere thanks and best wishes - Dawn"

New masterclass series for artists

A new series of inspirational masterclasses for artists and those working in the Arts sector is launching in November.

Worcestershire Arts Partnership are hosting masterclasses in funding, involving young people, low cost live streaming and the role of storytelling at **The Hive** in Worcester from November through to May next year.

Elaine Knight, Arts Director, Severn Arts said:

"I am very pleased we are launching a new series of masterclasses as they were so popular last year. We have got an interesting range of topics to discuss and a fantastic line up of creative industry experts to lead the sessions and share their tips, tricks and experiences".

Meet the Funder is on Thursday 21 November from 10am – 1.30pm. This session will include tips and tricks on how, where and when to seek funding and includes a networking lunch.

Youth Governance and Youth Development is on Monday 10 February from 2 – 4.30pm. The focus of this session is on how to get the involvement of young people in your organisation and projects.



Low Fi and Low Cost Live Streaming and Sharing is on Friday 3 April from 2 - 4.30pm. This session will cover tips on how to get started with live streaming and sharing your practice online.

Playing with Words is on Tuesday 12 May from 10am – 12.30pm. This session, led by popular storyteller and musician Sal Tonge, will explore the role of pattern, prosody and story in any arts practice. Children are welcome to come along too!

Each of the masterclasses is £10 to attend or £35 if all four are booked at the same time. For more information and to book a place visit

www.severnarts.org.uk/inspire-enable-empower/

Beth Quarmby Illustration

An exhibition of illustrations that combine painterly textures with intricate line drawings; the complexities of illustrator **Beth Quarmby**. This love of texture has developed into an embroidery style that she describes as ‘drawing with thread’. Referencing folk stories, a love of nature and a bit of pop culture, Beth creates work that, like any good fairy tale, has both light and dark.

Gloucester Guildhall Saturday 2nd – Thursday 28th Nov 2019.



Amalgamate 2



Two fine art graduates, two worlds apart, **Roger and Harrie** are a father and daughter. It was 2014 when Harrie chose to study a Foundation Course at **Hereford College of Art**. At about the same time her father, Roger, was driven by others to go for an interview at Hereford College of Art(HCA) discovering paint to be his true love. Roger moved on to a degree in fine art, whilst Harrie developed a more conceptual approach to her work going on to Bristol (UWE). They both graduated in 2018 and showcased their work together at **East Friars Gallery** and now, by invitation in Hereford.

The Courtyard, Hereford.
15th November until 5th January 2020.



This month at Dancefest

Under the Moon, Animal Flow and Tai Chi

Dancefest are so looking forward to performing at **Kidderminster Arts and Food Festival (KAFF)** this year! They're delighted to be part of their **Under The Moon Festival** on Saturday 2 November at **Kidderminster Town Hall**.

Look out for pop up performances by their **Worcester and Tenbury Gifted and Talented** groups at the opening at 5.30pm, as well as **Rock Creative Chance to Dance's** specially created contemporary dance piece, *Moontide*, in this evening of live music and performances, food and drink, arts and craft creators, and exciting, interactive entertainment, all inspired by the festival's moon theme!

If watching all of that inspires you get moving, there's still chance to take part in Dancefest's autumn guest workshops.

Coming up is **Animal Flow** (18+) led by **Be ProHuman** on Sunday 10 November. Animal Flow can be done anytime, anywhere, on your own or in a group, with no equipment needed. It's accessible to all and is a movement based, body weight training programme, drawing elements from yoga, gymnastics and martial arts – and most importantly, it's brilliant fun!

Then on Sunday 1 December there's **Tai Chi Chuan and Relaxation** (18+) led by **Enid Gill**, a session to re-charge, with energy-stimulating exercises on mats, short karate moves of slow, fluid movements, relaxation and centring exercises – the perfect workshop to end the year!

Both workshops take place at 10.30am-12.30pm at **The Angel Centre** in Worcester and cost £15 each.

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

The Barn, Ledbury Art Classes

Sarah Rutherford's classes have been more and more enthralling for the students who have attended them. She is able to inspire so that incredible drawings rather like etchings which transpire into the most wonderful ebbs and flows to resemble whatever you see in them.

Come and join in, wrap in a rug, sit on a sofa with plumped up cushions and let your hand free flow from an empty mind. These classes are sublime and the results are incredible!

This Wednesday and Thursday between 10am and 1pm.

6th and 7th November

13th and 14th November

20th and 21st November

27th and 28th November

starting 10.00 am until 1.00pm

cost £20 for one day

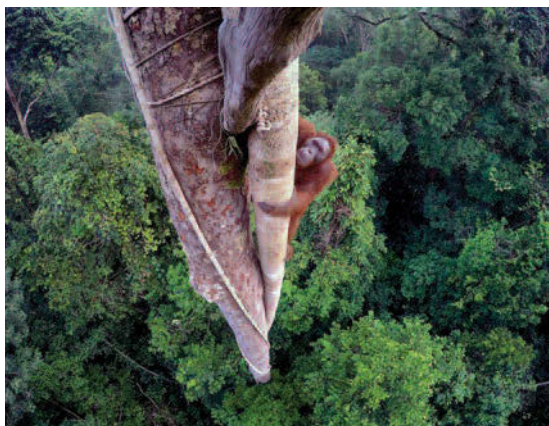
£35.00 for two days

Courtyard Carbon Neutral

Hereford's leading arts venue is committed to becoming carbon neutral and has an established Eco Group who meet regularly to ensure the organisation is as environmentally sustainable as possible. **The Courtyard's** programming is reflective of its commitment to being green and this season the theatre is welcoming two events that aim to educate and campaign for more people to get on board with helping to save our planet.

You can hear from multi-award winning wildlife cameraman **Doug Allan** on Friday 15 November for an evening of behind the scenes stories and a discussion about how he's seen pollution and climate change have devastating effects on the natural world.

Then later on this month watch a screening of Turkish film *Honeyland* (12A) on Tuesday 12 November. The documentary follows Hatidze, a woman who trudges up a hillside to visit her bee colonies who she serenades with a secret chant in order to extract honeycomb without the use of netting or gloves.



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

Hidden Gem 'Our Man in the Moone' project comes to Bromyard & Leominster in 2019/20

An ambitious community project involving adventure, storytelling, history, theatre, aerial dance, music and storytelling is coming to Bromyard & Leominster and it needs people to get involved.

Francis Godwin's story, *'The Man in the Moone'* - very much a hidden treasure of Herefordshire and Worcestershire, was first published almost 400 years ago. It is the first, and most extraordinary work of science fiction in the English language, written in the 1600s when he was Bishop of Hereford and lived in Whitbourne.



The *'Our Man in the Moone'* project began last summer with a one-off performance at **Whitbourne Village Hall**, when stilt walkers and aerialists played the characters of Lunas (the moon people that Godwin's hero Gonsales encounters on his

adventures) and Ganzas, a team of trained geese that propel his contraption to the moon. Local illustrator **Megan Evans** designed the feather pattern for the local performers' wings and the soundtrack was created by **Tim Phillips** from Whitbourne.

Rachel Freeman, from **Everybody Dance**, is leading the project. She says, *"We are looking for a cohort of people who are interested in the story that was originally created by the Bishop of Hereford, Francis Godwin, in the 1600s, when he lived in Whitbourne. It's an amazing tale of adventure and daring, that involves a journey to the moon and we'll be organising trips to the Herefordshire Archive & Record Centre, story sessions with world-class performance storyteller Ben Haggarty and community performances. 'Our Man in the Moone' has been rewritten for a modern audience by Herefordshire author Liz Kershaw, and we'll*

need performers who would like to learn aerial dance and stilt walking in our beginners workshops, as well as actors to play Godwin and the narrator. There are lots of backstage roles too, like costume making, sound, sets and so on, even doing the tea and cake, so there's something for all talents and abilities!"

Everybody Dance is a charity based in the village of Whitbourne that specialises in working with people of

all abilities and ages and bringing them together through dance-based projects which support a sense of belonging. Rachel is very excited about bringing the project to new communities after its success this summer in Whitbourne. Rachel urges people who would like to know more about getting involved to email her at rfeverybodydance@gmail.com or text or phone: 07870 429528.

Liz Kershaw's updated version of Godwin's tale can be read on the project blog - <https://ourmaninthemoone.blog>.

The project has been made possible through money raised by **National Lottery players**; a **National Lottery Heritage Fund** grant of £10,100 and further funding from **Herefordshire's a Great Place's 'Hidden Gems'** scheme, a **Herefordshire Cultural Partnership** development project delivered by **Rural Media**. **Great Place** is co-funded by **Arts Council England** and **National Lottery Heritage Fund** with support from **Historic England**. **Whitbourne Community Shop** are also supporting 'Our Man in the Moone' along with **The Herefordshire Community Foundation**, **The Elmley Foundation** and **Susan Bulmer**.



Number 8, Pershore

Cut Fold Bind - 'So Many Books, So Little Time'

Thursday 7 November - Wednesday 18 December

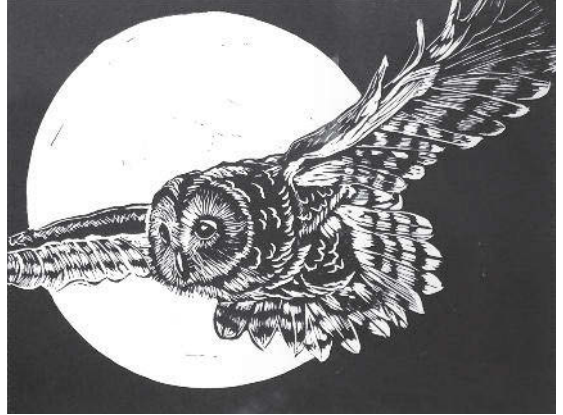
Cut Fold Bind returns to **Pershore Number 8** with an exhibition of brand new inspiring creations from a group of local book artists. The group combine traditional and contemporary approaches to bookbinding utilising mixed media, textiles, drawings, painting and printing.



St. Peter's Printmakers - 'Fresh off the Press'

Thursday 7th - Wednesday 27th November

The **St. Peter's Printmakers** primarily focus on relief printing, and also use etching, dry-point, collagraph, letterpress and screen printing. From small beginnings in 2012, the group has continued to grow, in numbers and range of work. They meet weekly to explore their printmaking interests and stage regular exhibitions.



November at:

WORCESTER ARTS WORKSHOP SPACE TO CREATE

The line up for music at **Worcester Arts Workshop** this November is one not to be missed. The laidback quintet, **Moscow Drug Club** is in concert on Saturday 3 November, recreating the intoxicating allure of debauched 1930's Berlin cabaret!

On Saturday 16 November the prize-winning seven piece band **She'Koyokh** perform their mix of rich and traditional music from the Balkans and Turkey. It's no coincidence that '*She'Koyokh*' is a Yiddish word meaning "*nice one!*"



There's a colourful array of events happening throughout the month, including two hours of Live Music, Comedy and Poetry from **Bohemian Voices** on Thursday 7 November and the return of **Before I Die Worcestershire** on Friday 22 November, this time with a **Quiz Night** testing your knowledge of death in history, the arts and culture.

Worcester Film Institute present two films during November, the first, a night of Halloween fun with a screening *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* with drinks and spooky music to swing your hips to on Friday 1 November (Cert 15).

Next up, the screening of *Are You Proud?* on Saturday 23 November, a film that charts the history of the LGBTQ+ movement in the fifty years since the Stonewall Riots (Cert 15).

Booking is now open for the new term of creative courses at WAW. Choose from a course of Painting and Drawing, Pottery or Life Drawing amongst others, or try a one-off workshop including, Batik on Friday 8 November, **Pottery Christmas Decorations** on Friday 15 November and **Georgia O'Keefe Pop Up Painting Style Event** on Wednesday 27 November.

A new term of children's courses continue, with theatre and dance workshops running on Saturdays too. And very young children can come (along with their grownups!) to another **Bearded Lady Daytime Comedy Club** on Friday 8 November.

As always, entry is free to the latest exhibition in the Cafe Bar and this month sees a **Community Glass Exhibition** from Tuesday 5 to Saturday 30 November

For full events and workshop listings or to book visit Worcester Arts Workshop's NEW website - worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk (please note online booking fees apply).

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

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adverts@slapmag.co.uk

Crafted for You Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum 16th Nov - 4th Jan 2020

This Christmas, **Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum** is urging people to support local artists and craft makers through visiting two exhibitions which celebrates a wealth of local talent. **Crafted for You** opens on the 16th of this month until 4 January, showing an exquisite array of jewellery, textiles, ceramics and other handmade craftsmanship. Worcestershire has a special history as a centre for decorative making skills and this tradition continues today and is proudly celebrated in this exhibition. Each piece has been made by a talented maker and hand-picked for this top-quality exhibition.

Crafted for You is perfect for that unique Christmas gift for someone special or a treat for yourself, all items are for sale and make perfect presents with a local provenance. Purchasing from the exhibition supports both the museum and local artists.

Maggie Wallace, exhibition curator said: "*Crafted for You is a celebration of craft with so many different makers on show all so talented and producing beautiful wares. If you are looking for a Christmas gift for someone special, or a treat for yourself, Crafted for You will have what you are looking for.*"

Visitors will also have the opportunity to see the Worcester **Society of Artists** 72nd annual exhibition which opens on 7th December. The Society of Artists exhibition is a great opportunity to see a fabulous and eclectic selection of art created by local artists. Founded in 1947 to encourage the appreciation, understanding and practice of the visual arts, the Society has exhibited every year since their first year of existence at Worcester City Art Gallery.

A special Christmas event at the Art Gallery on Saturday 7th December 11am – 1pm welcomes visitors to enjoy a festive drink and mince pie with a bonus of 10% off purchases all day in the **Crafted for You** exhibition and Society of Artists exhibition as well as purchases from the Art Gallery & Museum Shop. Every penny spent in the Shop goes back into supporting the work of the Art Gallery & Museum and enables exciting exhibitions and events to happen. On 21 December enjoy special **Family Christmas Crafts**, from 11am – 3pm drop in and create pots of Christmas Magic; decorate your pot, roll a beeswax candle and wrap it in style to make the perfect Christmas gift!

The Balcony Café will also be getting into the festive spirit serving a special seasonal menu including warming lunches, Method-Roastery coffee and delicious home-made cakes.



Crafted for You is on from 16th November until 4th January at **Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum**.

The Art Gallery & Museum is open Monday – Saturday, 10.30am – 4.30pm, entry is free. Worcester Society of Artists 72nd Annual Exhibition is on from 7th Dec until 11th Jan.

For more information see www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk or call 01905 25371.



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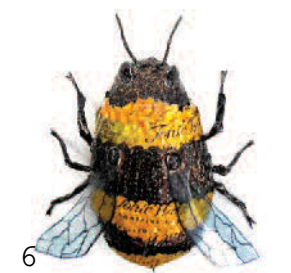
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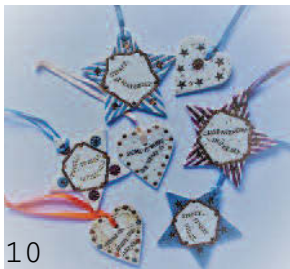
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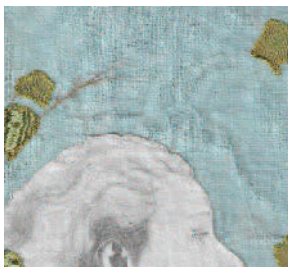
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15



16



15



17

Crafted For You 2019 makers are:

1. Ben Homer - creates unique sculptural apples and pears which make a feature of natural growths and flaws in the wood he uses.

2. Zoe Carson - Zoe lovingly crafts bright and tactile jewellery and other items like bookmarks using a variety of materials including glass, ceramic, wood & quality beads.

3. Sally Davis - Sally experiments with metal and glass to explore soft and hard textures, inspired by contrast between post-war London of her childhood and the natural surroundings of her home today.

4. Emma Leans - An artistic partnership between friends Emma and Natalie, Emmaleans create hand-made lino prints, cards and lavender bags which feature homely designs inspired by British wildlife and nature.

5. Rosemary Sandy - These vibrant handmade jewellery pieces are made using a variety of beads, Czech glass, freshwater pearls and semi-precious stones, often combined with wirework and crocheting or knitting.

6. Val Hunt - Val's creative recycling is borne from a passion for the environment, and she produces a range of decorative and functional pieces, including a series of works which highlight endangered species.

7. Martin Griffiths - Created especially for Crafted For You exhibition, Martin's most recent ceramics are colour-brushed and patterned with sgraffito-cut decorations inspired by his paintings of flowers and hedgerows.

8. Chris Greening - Influenced by the marine environment where he sources his clay, Chris's homeware pieces are reminiscent of the patterns that nature produces, such as the waves on a sandy shoreline.

9. Bobbi Heath - As a couture milliner with over twenty years of experience, Bobbi individually-designs and hand-makes unique hats ranging from warming winter felt to statement fascinators.

10. Jennifer Colquitt - Jennifer draws inspiration from art, literature and nature to produce delicately coloured porcelain artworks and decorations which combine tactile textures with fine patterns.

11. Melissa Wright - Melissa's fascination with the textures of frayed denim has led her to recycle worn jeans and combine them with other contrasting fabrics, applique and stitching.

12. Rebecca Morgan - Rebecca uses the pouring method with acrylic paints to create unique and intensely colourful artworks under her pseudonym beckofayart.

13. Penny Dixon - A member of the Heritage Crafts Association, Penny makes her own felt artworks to honour nature and the unseen worlds of our imagination, and places great emphasis on wellbeing through art.

14. Rachel Blackwell - Malvern-based artist Rachel paints mythical landscapes inspired by the British countryside, populated by woodland animals and fairies which weave stories through her artworks.

15. Julie Stevens - A series of dream-like illustrations are inspired by her Grandmothers, Dot and Winnie, and explore folklore and myths that inspired her as a child using pencil, ink and textiles.

16. Karoline Rerrie - Karoline's illustrations and prints are characterised by bold outlines, bright colours and patterns inspired by folk art and traditional costumes from around the world.

17. Sarah Greening - Sarah plays with the chemistry of reactions inside layers of glass to produce striking light-effects and bold colour combinations which make unique one-off jewellery pieces.

Suz Winspear



November means that 2019 is finally on its way out. I don't think that this is going to be anybody's favourite year with the grinding misery of potential Brexit hanging over us. I'm writing this on October 21st, not knowing whether I'll still be a citizen of the EU at the end of the month, and I feel sorry for future school-

students who are going to have to study and try to make sense of all this in their history lessons. Meanwhile here we are, creating our art, music, poetry and stories – even if we try to escape and ignore the social and political climate, our work cannot help but reflect these chaotic times. I think that future cultural commentators are going to have a far more interesting time than those unfortunate students!

And whether you are politically-engaged or just trying to forget all about it, there are plenty of Spoken Word events going on in Worcestershire this month –

Thursday 7th November – Bohemian Voices – at the Worcester Arts Workshop The first of a new monthly event! This will mix music, comedy and spoken word, with a range of unusual and exciting performers – come along for a memorable night out – Spoken Word in Worcester will never be the same again! £5 admission (£2.50 students/unwaged) 8.30pm

Thursday 7th November – Bewdley Fringe Spoken Word – at The Retreat Bar, Load Street, Bewdley With **Charley Barnes** (Worcestershire Poet Laureate). Open mic slots available for poetry, spoken word and storytelling. Free admission - turn up at 7pm to sign up for a slot. 7.30pm start.

Wednesday 13th November – Pressed Flowers' Book launch – at Parks Café, Droitwich The launch of an anthology of

floral-themed poetry from a range of top-quality poets, coordinated by Worcestershire Poet Laureate **Charley Barnes** and **Polly Stretton** of **Black Pear Press**. Free admission. 7pm.

Thursday 14th November – SpeakEasy - at Paradiddles, 61/61a Sidbury WR1 3HU Our second month at our new venue - eclectic poetry from a wide range of local poets. The featured performer for November will be **Holly Daffurn**. 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.

Friday 15th November – Voices of 1919 – at the Hive Poems from 'Voices of 1919' – a poetry sequence about the lives of people in a small village in the aftermath of the First World War – will be performed by actors. Free admission, but booking essential at www.thehiveworcester.org

Thursday 21st November – 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 Dear Listener will be a bit different from usual – it'll be a Scratch Night – Instead of a headliner, open mic performers are invited to read a first draft - or at least, a very early one - of their current work in progress, and there will be plenty of intervals for people to provide feedback on this work (if, and only if, the author wants it). It'll be a good chance to air those fresh words and see how they feel aloud! £3 admission. 6.30 – 8.30pm.

Wednesday 27th November - 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 'Vampires and Voodoo' – personally, I can never have enough of either! 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.

world-famous acts such as The Libertines, Jimmy Carr, Micheal McIntyre and Shappi Khorsani started their careers in Steve's showcase and the night became legendary.

On its debut night in Worcester, Bohemian Voices features:

Steve Soden – Compere and host (his anarchic and engaging style has been described as Richard E. Grant on acid), **Suz Winspear** – former Worcester Poet Laureate, **Keiran Baldy Man Davis** – poet and comedian, **Kringo Blue** – a renowned Worcester guitarist and musician, **Neil Laurenson** – a hilarious stand up poet, **Mel & Him** – a musical pop-rock duo and **Sarah Nicolson** – comedian extraordinaire.

The launch of Bohemian Voices offers an exciting opportunity for artists and performers from Worcestershire and further afield to launch their careers in a supportive environment and perform in a great venue. If any aspiring performers would like to be considered for future shows please email- info@stevesoden.biz

Katherine Harris

Bohemian Voices The Unmissable launch

Worcester Arts Workshop | 7th November

Bohemian Voices, an incredibly popular night of genre breaking entertainment from London, is being relaunched in **The Vault** of the **Worcester Art's Workshop** on Thursday the 7th November from 8.30pm-10.30pm and continuing the first Thursday of every month. Covering spoken word, music and comedy, **Bohemian Voices** offers an opportunity for those with wildly different tastes and disciplines to meet, network and enjoy some local talent. Priced at £5 for adults and £2.50 for students, this event offers something for young and old alike.

Compered and organised by **Steve Soden**, **Bohemian Voices** ran for a number of years in London. Now-



SAVE THE DATE

Friday 25th & Saturday 26th September 2020

The Official International John Bonham A Celebration II

Organised by John Bonham Memorial Friends in partnership with **Palace Drum Clinic**, and in aid of **Teenage Cancer Trust West Midlands**, **John Bonham A Celebration II** marks the 40th anniversary of the untimely passing of **John Henry Bonham** on 25th September 1980. He was just 32 years old.

The two day, up-scaled event is intended to be more inclusive for both local residents and fans that have travelled to Redditch from around the UK and overseas, and provide an economic boost for the town's hospitality and retail businesses.



The inaugural festival in Sept 2018, celebrating the **Led Zeppelin** drummer's 70th Birthday and the installation of a bronze memorial in the heart of the town centre, attracted fans from around the world, including the US, Mexico, Australia, France, Italy, Ireland, and from all over the UK.

"The line-up will be revealed over the next few weeks along with other special announcements!" says Ros Sidaway, Event Director. "Fans of Led Zeppelin and rock- blues music will not want to miss out on what will be another terrific occasion"

Tickets are due to go on sale mid-November. Meanwhile, businesses interested in sponsoring the 2020 contact Ros Sidaway on 07887 525107 or email ros@johnbonhammemorial.com.

Left: Deborah Bonham & Friends JBAC I - September 2018.

Above: John Bonham.

by Nick Sharp Photography



Punk, Poetry and a tub of Vaseline

Notorious tory-hater, bespectacled mohawk wearer and Birmingham poetry icon, **Giovanni "Spoz" Esposito** has released a new book of his work: *'Sometimes Angry,'* printed by **Verve Poetry Press**. There's a lot to love about Spoz, I once heard him referred to as a "poetry dad" by a fellow performer. He is constantly trying to build up the reputations of other performers, offering opening slots at his gigs and organising open mic nights. The launch of *'Sometimes Angry'* was a joint headline event with poet **Evrah Rose**, whose poem's on the achievements of women and growing up in forgotten and economically desperate areas of Wales with an amazing community spirit made my eyes brim with tears.

When he's not writing books or performing in schools, Spoz plays guitar in the punk band **Vaseline**, with Ringo on drums, Ratty



on guitar and Couchy on bass. The band are fantastic, offering punk, mod and new wave covers to get you dancing in the aisles.

'Sometimes Angry' is a marvellous read, darting between the profound and the hilarious. Titles like *"Only the dead dreams of the ASBO kid"* portray a broken society

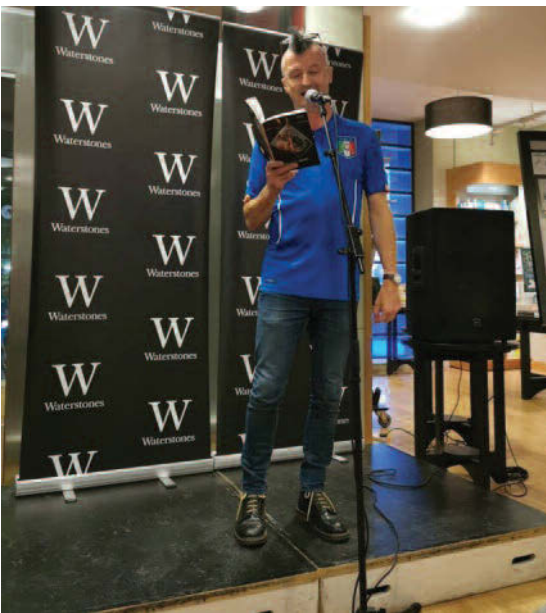
in which *"Murdoch's scummy empire"* brands working class teenagers or disenfranchised children as losers whilst calling for further benefit cuts and perpetuating the cycle *"cause shit in...usually equals shit out."* *"The Thin White Duke,"* a homage to David Bowie, tracks the star's highs and lows and the difficulty we face when our idols falter. Serious stuff with light-hearted language, Spoz makes poetry accessible and pulls listeners away from the feeling of highbrow elitism often associated with the art form.

My favourite poem in the collection is *"The Preposterous Gammon Balloon."* During the book launch as Spoz wryly read the title an audible gasp of delight escaped from the audience. An unveiled jab at the middle-class, moccasin wearing, Clarkson lover, Spoz is quick to mock the Gammon's *"Facebook posts with the CAPS LOCK ON"* and his love of *"Tommeh Robinson."* Spoz calls out the hypocrisy of those who drink German beer whilst screaming for Brexit.

At the end of *'Sometimes Angry'* sit the introductory poems from the three opening acts of the book launch: **Davanté Dunkley** - a man with a voice like honey, **Jemima Hughes** - a tornado of sound and beauty and **Tom McCann** - whose work is filled with rhythmic frustration, perfectly expressed.

Buy his book, go to one of his nights or go and catch a gig with **Vaseline**. Your options are endless, but if I were you, I'd get involved in the witty and politically charged world of Spoz - You won't regret it.

Katherine Harris
SLAP NOVEMBER 13



Art House Open Lecture Series

Art House, Castle Street, Worcester

Selected Wednesdays until 11 March 2020.

Meadow Arts and the University of Worcester's Fine Art Department are delighted to present the **Art House Open Lecture Series 2019-20**, a fifth season of talks in Worcester by some of the most exciting contemporary artists working in the UK. The free talks take place at the University's new art studios, the Art House in Worcester City Centre on selected Wednesday evenings from 4:30pm to 6:30pm, and include a chance to ask questions after each presentation.



Gareth Proskourine-Barnett will be in Worcester on 13th November to tell us how his interdisciplinary practice investigates our society's relationship to place and the way materials can embody histories. Travelling internationally for exhibitions (including those held in the UK, China, Denmark, Russia, India and Thailand) and workshops, Gareth also teaches Art and Design at the **Birmingham School of Art** and is a visiting tutor at the **Royal College of Art**. He is currently working towards a PhD in Critical and Historical Studies, where his research investigates Brutalist Architecture through the Internet.



Sarah Taylor Silverwood presents a talk on 27th November. A fascinating upcoming talent, her work is centred on drawing and she often works with ceramics, animation and installation. Recent projects include a solo show, *Daphne*, at **The New Art Gallery Walsall** in 2019, *Crowd Show* at NN Contemporary, a commissioned work *Multistory* and the British Consulate in Chicago residency, *USA* in 2014. Sarah creates her work from a base at the **Grand Union** art studios in Birmingham.

The second half of the talk series takes place in the New Year of 2020, when the Art House looks forward to welcoming four more artists with diverse methods and working practices; investigator of cultural narratives from historic Dutch still lifes to heavy metal, **Tom Cardwell** (29th January); **Alia Pathan**, an interdisciplinary artist, interested in memory, technology and subjectivity (5th February); creator of playful sculptures, **Jack Evans** (19th Feb) and **Sally Payen**, a successful painter whose subjects include protest and democracy (11th March).

Talks take place on selected Wednesday evenings from 4:30pm to 6:30pm, and include a chance to ask questions after each presentation. The talks are free and open to all - booking is recommended for the public via www.meadowarts.org. More about the artists and a full list of dates are also available on the website. All talks take place at the **Art House**, Castle Street, Worcester WR1 3ZQ at 4:30pm.

Talks are free: please visit meadowarts.org for booking links

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Pershore Number 8

Following their rapturously received performance at **Number 8** in 2017 **The Budapest Café Orchestra** return on Saturday 16th November with another evening of impassioned Eastern European gypsy folk, heart-rending ballads and fiery dances.



Led by jazz violin superstar **Christian Garrick**, they play traditional folk and gypsy flavoured music from across the Balkans and Russia. Klezmer, Romanian doinas, Hungarian czadas and beautiful ballads - such as the theme to Schindler's List and Andy Statman's beautiful Flatbush Waltz - are all featured. The music evokes vivid images of fiddle maestros, Budapest café life and gypsy campfires as, with infectious enthusiasm. Tickets: £15

Foyer Folk returns on Saturday 2nd November **The Night Watch** play songs and dance tunes from the 12th century to the end of the 17th century, covering the mediaeval, renaissance and



early baroque periods. **The Night Watch** sing in mediaeval, Tudor and modern English, and play period instruments including shawm, recorders, cornamuse, rebec, oud, gittern, cittern, and renaissance guitars. Booking now: £5

The **Worcester Classical Guitar Society** return to **Number 8** on Friday 22nd November for an evening of music in **The Foyer** presented by two of their ensembles.

They have been playing together since 1988, and have a varied repertoire of classical standards and modern arrangements and compositions. **The**



Worcester Youth Guitar Orchestra was established in 1995 and plays a broad repertoire of original compositions and arrangements of pop and other music. Admission free.

Rough Diamonds & GR~V111 St. Peters Arts Church, Malvern | Sat 23rd Nov



The Rough Diamonds and **GR~V111** bring you a joint concert in aid of **People in Motion** and **Midlands Air Ambulance**.

The Rough Diamonds are an unaccompanied choir who have twenty-four members who enjoy performing a range of music from around the world, especially South Africa.

A capella group **GR~V111** are an eight member group who sing a range of songs, from Robbie Williams covered to Pavarotti. This eclectic repertoire is guaranteed to bring a smile to your face.

The show starts at 8:30 on Saturday the 23rd of November and will include a bar as well as a raffle.

For tickets, please contact Dave on 07980607788

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The Christians

The Iron Road, Pershore | 30th Nov

Renowned for an endless string of soulful yet socially aware hits ...*Forgotten Town, Ideal World, Born Again, Harvest for the World, What's in a Word, Hooverville, Words, Father, The Bottle* and many more **The Christians** enjoyed huge acclaim in the late 80s and early 90s both in the UK and Europe and often confused people with their band name (in fact, just the brothers surname with absolutely no religious connotation!) ... over 30 years on and they're still going strong.

Still headed by enigmatic lead singer **Garry Christian** (who very much deserves the Daily Mirror's description of him as having 'one of the finest voices in pop) who has only gained in vocal stature (and wit) over the years! the band are enjoying a revival currently touring successfully in the UK and Europe.



2019 sees the band touring the UK, France, Spain and Switzerland and enjoying playing their back catalogue and songs selected from their latest album.

Catch them at The Iron Road Live @ Bar 57, Pershore. WR10 1EU and find out why Chris Evans said '*it was the best gig I've ever been to*'

Tickets £22.50 ADV from Bar 57 or online at www.wegottickets.com/event/480956

Matt Owens & Alex Lipniski

The Marr's Bar | Thursday 21st Nov

British born singer-songwriter and musician **Matt Owens** first came to prominence as a founder member of indie-folk band Noah and the Whale. Releasing four albums, **Noah and the Whale** achieved huge success in the UK and overseas, selling over one million albums in the UK alone. The band toured the world between 2006 and 2015.

February this year saw the release of Matt's debut solo album, "*Whiskey and Orchids*" to widespread critical acclaim including a review in the July issue of SLAP magazine, by virtue of being christened locally in Claines at the only church with a pub, The Mug House. It is an album that sits closest to "*Americana*" with its rich, lyrical storytelling, shot through with gallows' humour, combined with Matt's return to his beloved acoustic guitar.

Matt's recording his next record this January with a stellar cast of musicians again on board due for a release next summer.



Joining Matt at the **Marrs Bar** is **Alex Lipniski**. The first thing that hits you is the voice. Alex Lipniski's caressing sympathy, full-throated resentment, and the raw rockabilly excitement of earliest Elvis have grabbed unwary lis-teners from the West Country to Krakow, Berlin and New York, since he first left Somerset to become a crucial habitu   of Soho's legendary, lost 12-Bar Club. He has followed in the footsteps of his hero Dylan to write in the Chelsea Hotel, and sung songs in the home of an admiring Liam Gallagher, who is a firm champion.



A brief tenure heading up **Phoneys & The Freaks** with Oasis's **Paul 'Bonehead' Arthurs** brought forth an EP, festival appearances and touring in the U.S and Italy. Lipniski's latest album '**ALEX**' was recorded and produced in Berlin by **Anton Newcombe** (The Brian Jonestown Massacre) who said of Lipniski - "*a young man worth my time and efforts. I appreciate his endless hard work and do it yourself ethics. Make no mistake, these songs have all the qualities of timeless music.*"

Lipniski's potential was obvious when he arrived with his guitar in Soho a decade ago. Re-lentless graft and restless experience see that potential now being fulfilled.

This promises to be a night of quality song writing and acoustic performance.

www.alexlipinski.com www.mattowensmusic.com

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November 2019 at Artrix

It's a month packed with live music, including Bromsgrove Concerts performances from **Hyungi Lee** on 8 November and **Mark Bebbington** on 22 November.

Don't miss the chance to see Canada-based indie folk artist **Joel Henderson** – aka **Poor Nameless Boy** – when he brings his mellow and effortless sound to the Artrix stage on 8 November.



Widely regarded as one of the UK's most distinguished and original songwriters, **Graham Parker**, perhaps best known as lead singer of Graham & The Rumour comes to Artrix on 28 November.

There's also a great mix of jukebox favourites with **G2 Definitive Genesis** on 2 November, **Abba Forever** on 15 & 16 November and **The Simon & Garfunkel Story** on 27 November.

Multi-award winning comedian **Shazia Mirza** returns to Artrix on 15 Nov with her latest tour: Coconut, followed by everyone's



favourite stand-up chef **George Egg** on 16 November. The hilarious **Alfie Moore: Fair Cop Unleashed** performs on 21 November and on 22 November **Sajeela Kershi & Guests** present *The Immigrant Diaries*. There's also a whole host of amazing talent from **Barnstormers Comedy** on 30 November.

Award-winning theatre company **Paines Plough** are returning to Artrix on 14 November with their latest production, *I Wanna Be Yours*, a tender, funny, lyrical play about finding love and holding onto it with everything you've got.

There are cinematic treats including Family Saturday Matinees, Exhibitions on Screen and NT Live's **Hansard** on 7 November and this month's Easy Sunday on 17 November sees the latest blockbuster biopic **Judy** screened, along with delicious street food and live music in the foyer from **Chloe Mogg**.

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

Ian Siegal

Huntingdon Hall Worcester | 12th Nov

British Blues icon and "Hall of Famer" **Ian Siegal** returns to **Huntingdon Hall** this November for his solo tour. Renowned throughout the UK and Europe, Ian is also well known across the Atlantic for his award-winning musicianship. Since his debut in 2005 with *Meat And Potatoes*, Ian has gone on to record eleven albums, with talents covering song-writing, singing and guitar both with his band and as a solo artist. As something of a raconteur, I'm sure he'll have plenty of anecdotes and tales from the road to entertain us with during the show. With a musical range covering Blues, Americana and even jazz, after playing across the world with the Orchestra National de Jazz, there's not much this man can't do!

After dropping out of art college in the late 80s, Ian busked his way through Germany and has been travelling ever since, along a path that would lead to grander stages and a worldwide following. After the release of *All The Rage*, Ian has compiled an acoustic EP, *Naked Rage*, showcasing tracks he'll be playing during his 'unplugged' tour, and for sale only at his live shows (until they sell out!). The term 'limited edition' might be over-used these days, but in the case of *Naked Rage*, if you're not there on the night, you're not getting a copy!

I've been fortunate enough to see Ian play both with his band and as a solo artist, both set ups make for memorable shows, but his solo sessions are arguably more personable, more intimate, and a lot of fun. What else would you want to be doing on a cold,

autumnal Tuesday evening? And it's right on our doorstep too, at the lovely Huntingdon Hall, on November 12th. Tickets available at the box office or online at www.worcesterlive.co.uk.



Graham Munn

Hipflask Virgins | Thumbs Up

"Thumbs Up", the latest single from Worcester rock duo

Hipflask Virgins, charges straight out of the gate with a high-energy, heavy metal-style guitar riff and vocalist Jay's ragged, sandpaper-throated screams. Drummer Will keeps the beats heavy and the pace frenetic as the track speeds along like a Harley Davidson on an empty highway. Forget fancy gimmicks or overly-slick production - this is a dose of the kind of good old-fashioned heavy rock you'd expect to be blasting out of a jukebox in a biker bar smelling of whiskey, smoke and engine oil.



As brash, in-your-face, and slightly cartoonish (represented well by its cover art by **Greg Kinman**) this track is, its goofiness is balanced with the knowing, tongue-in-cheek self-awareness of the duo's '90s slacker-rock influences - "Thumbs Up" sounds as much

Dinosaur Jr as it does Motorhead. Like Hipflask Virgins' previous single "Unintentional", the self-deprecation of the lyrics ("give me that thumbs up, man, to make me feel real") provides a skilful juxtaposition to the gung-ho riffage.

The bridge arrives like a creeping hangover - slow, grinding, and heavy, with pleas of "just tell me what I want to hear", before a short, sharp burst of energy floods back in to round things off. Not only is "Thumbs Up" one hell of a fun rock song, it is deceptively complex and manages to pack in a lot of ideas into its four-minute running time. As ever, the playing is accomplished yet spirited and unrestrained, and the production (by Jay and Will themselves) is raw and heavy.

Dan Knight

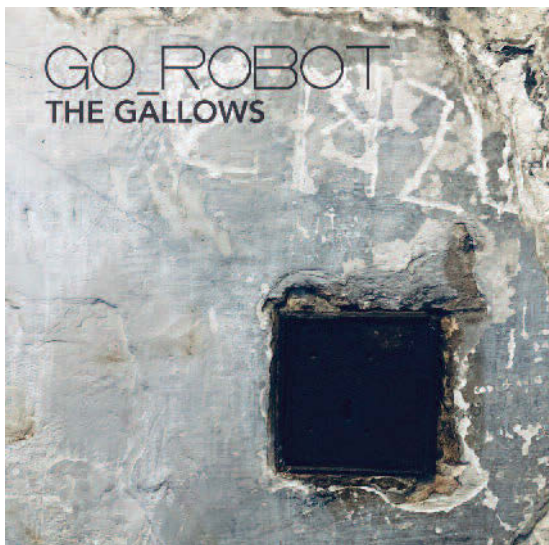
Go Robot | The Gallows

Set to release their debut EP entitled 'Good Intentions' at the end of 2019, **Go Robot** released their second single 'The Gallows' October 18th. With a sound similar to Elbow, Atoms For Peace and Alt-J, Go Robot create their own distinctive music with pure passion and a whole of originality.

After the success of their debut single 'Smoke' which pulled at the heart strings, it's great to hear a new sound that we can fall head over heels for.

As a personal song about sex addiction and infidelity, 'The Gallows' looks back on a relationship set in it's way and trying to forgive everything that happened once the pain begins to fade. Hearing an artist being honest in their own personal way makes the audience feel a lot closer and somewhat comforted in the darkness. As a song for the healing process to forgive and move on, the electronic number dusts itself off with an empowering message. A force to be reckoned with and features one of the most memorable melodies you'll hear all month.

Chloe Mogg

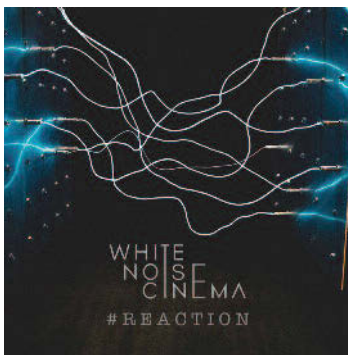


White Noise Cinema | Reaction

You know that feeling you get when you are the first person to run through a field of fresh snow? It's a feeling of satisfaction and fulfillment. Pure indulgent excitement. This is the exact same feeling I experienced when I first saw **White Noise Cinema** live at the **Marrs Bar** in Worcester.

Six guys and an immense, impressive amount of musical equipment on stage, this Worcestershire band left me wanting more and as a result I've avidly followed their progress ever since. "Reaction" didn't disappoint, and has swiftly made it onto my Spotify playlist.

I had concerns that the visual aspect of this band contributed a lot to the enjoyment felt while listening to them, and my concerns lay in fear that may not translate in music alone. However I needn't have worried as the diversity and sheer expanse of this musical talent has filtered through with ease. Close your eyes and really



listen. Its musical heaven. With a heavy intro and melodic siren sounding element welcoming us into the track, my ears are literally hooked from the get go. Singer Ben offers up delicate vocals in contrast with the upbeat indie-rock track delivered by the musicians, to depict a story of how social media is used to elicit a reaction. I do also, however, hear another message, a cry for help, using media posts to portray one version of life when reality is the opposite. The crashing cymbals throughout make it impossible not to dance like "everyone is watching". Sounds from each instrument have blended together to build an intricately layered surefire hit. There is a sound I struggle to compare to any one artist or band, as its uniqueness sets them apart. Sure, you can hear the influences of bands such as NiN and Muse etc, but these guys are trail blazers in their own right and deserve to be treated as such.

If you love this track and have never seen them live, you are going to love them even more when you do. Impressive doesn't cover it! Well done guys.

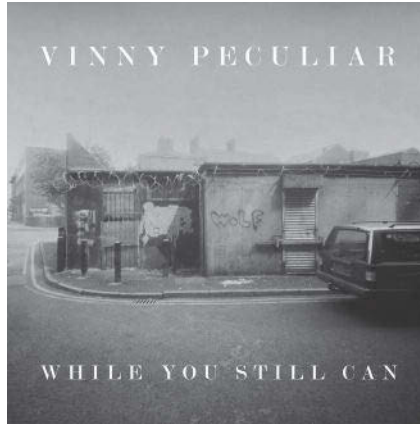
Kate Ford

Vinny Peculiar | While You Still Can

While You Still Can is an album that wears its heart on its album sleeve – a contemporary image of a tired and crumbling Albion? – the inference is there in monochrome. **Vinny Peculiar** is longing for what went before, or put a little more complexly, the album is a paean for the antediluvian. The black and white cover is a literal statement of his life's perspective: black and white. The album title itself a statement of continuous or impending change encountered on a daily basis. Yes, Vinny Peculiar is content to look back longingly; rather pleasingly he is just as content to question the present.

The opening track is a sinister threat. *Vote for Me* is a piano led soliloquy that addresses our weary view of politics or more specifically politicians. The song is delivered in a breathy and jaundiced voice that alarms and provokes - to engage and enrage with equal measure - with lyrics that question the dynamic between the "haves" and those that are "not having it" any more. Mr. Peculiar's adoption of the persona of a career led politician – cajoling you into voting for him - hints still further at his viewpoint of modern life: cynical.

The very modern and cynical preoccupation with self-promotion or what Vivian Leopold (Clive James real name) referred to as to as the "*cult of celebrity*" is explored in *Dianne Abbot Takes a Selfie*. VP is both looking at the need for continual "self-self-self(ish)" and "I-I-I- (pad)" and glancing back to a time when this was never necessary.



It is necessary to point out that you never feel that VP is close to stating that "*things were so much better in the past*" but the album helps you to think about where we are at and where we are heading, as we hurtle ever forwards: in to the unknown?

Fast forward the album to *Man out of Time* and you will discover a song for anyone over the age of...? The slide-guitar seems of a different time and the cultural references are definitely of a different time. Hand on heart I cannot think of another track that names Noggin the Nog (younger viewers will need to look this up). We are all comfortable with the known and the familiar – Vinny, knows this and allows us to explore and yes, reminisce. *Man out of Time* articulates what those with any emotional intelligence feel on a near daily basis: bemusement and bewilderment.

While You Still Can is a mature album that reflects matured issues and preoccupations. Any one that has visited the Trafford centre will appreciate the sentiments on this album. The tone is at times cynical and sceptical. The musicality of the album is far reaching and all encompassing. But always challenging. Ultimately, Mr. Peculiar, like anyone with a sense of the past understands, appreciates we need to learn from history because if we don't...that could be our neighbourhood crumbling on the front cover of an album.

I challenge anyone to listen to the album and not elicit a personal response. For me

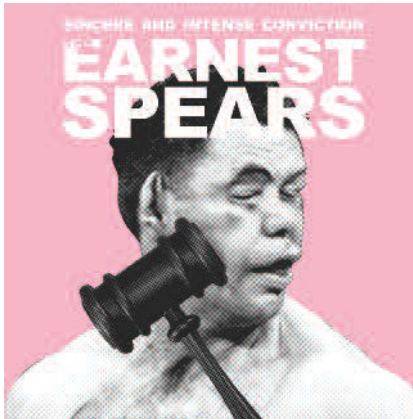
personally *While You Still Can* reflects the before and the now; an impressive album, that **Vinny Peculiar** has penned Soul and Heart into, and yes metaphorically spilt blood over but unlike Tony Hancock, more than just an armful. So, why don't you switch off your television set and do something less boring instead and invest in an even more though provoking piece of work than say, "*I'm a celebrity get me out of here*"?

Nicholas David Burford

The Earnest Spears Sincere and Intense Conviction

The **Earnest Spears** are a 4 cheeky young shavers out of Worcester kicking up an intense, energetic and relevant noise which mixes post-punk, hardcore, pop and social commentary. Only formed in March, they have just released their debut EP and it announces them majestically onto the Midlands music scene and beyond following high-profile and high-energy supports with the likes of The Wytches and Press Club. This EP is curious in that its influences are not only contemporary in the likes of Slaves, Squid and Idles, but also they have done their homework on the original post-punk pioneers and comparisons with Wire and even elements of Magazine are fair game.

With a big, bright recording from **Revolt studios**, it captures their raw energy, particularly on the opener '*Drown Town*' a driving beat and vocals that encapsulate the boredom of provincial living. Next up is '*Happy Go Lucky*', which reminds me of 'Parklife'-era Blur crossed with Fugazi (that's a good thing). It is the stand-out 'hit' of the EP due to its infectious chorus. '*I'll Do Me*' is probably the throwaway track of the EP, no doubt strong live, but not up to the standard of



the other four belters. The final two tracks delve deeper into punk heritage, elements of anarcho punk and some stunning guitar work on '*Where Do You Go*' that John McGeoch would be proud of.

I caught up with frontman **Owen** who said,

"We really love the way the Worcester music scene is now and it really is a pleasure to be a part of it. We felt very welcomed when we started out. Saying that, we think it is extremely important to help keep independent venues going strong, there's something special about independent venues and that's because there aren't enough of them."

So what's next from you lads?

"There are many plans in store ready for the new year, but we don't want to give too much away... *Tour.We* are not just

about the music but values of respect, loyalty and realism.. because they're all very rare nowadays. All of those mixed together with a nice bit of EARNEST x"

A very impressive debut for a band who I predict big things for in 2020. And I know.

Scrumpy Jack

Toby Charles | Rather Be (with you)

With winter just around the corner, we'll all be reaching for our scarves and gloves, wrapping cold hands around hot chocolate. So aren't we all wishing we could travel back in time to the days of sunshine, blue skies and cocktails on the beach? Well, with the right sound track, we can at least take our minds back to that time. So sit back, relax and press play on the latest single release from Worcester artist **Toby Charles**.

Impressively, Toby began writing his own songs at the age of 12, after teaching himself the basics of guitar. The now London based singer songwriter has given us "*Rather Be (With You)*". This chilled out track is a strong contender for your throwback to summer playlist. There



really is something quite refreshing about a simple, feel good song like this - a catchy little guitar strum, with a toe tapping drum shuffle playing merrily along behind. A song that will undoubtedly uplift your mood.

Beautiful references, offering reassurance to a special someone that they'd rather be with them than out drinking with the guys or on exotic holidays, a promise that the old fashioned romantic in all of us would love to hear.

Tobys vocals have a raw and gritty edge to them, and they work seamlessly alongside backing vocalist **Hannah Mac** during the chorus.

This is the kind of music you'd enjoy listening to in a sun drenched beer garden, but has equally brought a satisfied warmth to a cold Autumnal evening.

Kate Ford

Word of Mouth | Turn The Other Cheek

Word of Mouth have appeared on the local circuits this year seemingly out of nowhere, but boy have they made an impression. Quickly garnering a reputation for their energetic live shows full of indie-pop goodness, it was great excitement that met the news of their debut release '*Turn The Other Cheek*'.

Recorded at **Revolt Recordings** in Malvern, '*Turn The Other Cheek*' is a light and bubbly indie-pop track that sees classic indie guitar stylings come into play, paired with lyrics that follow a narrative that's both interesting and relatable. The band themselves describe the track as "*a feel good track about adopting that care free attitude.*"

These lads are certainly ones to watch and having already surpassed 1k streams on Spotify at point of print and nearing sell out at their recent single launch show in September at **Annie's Burger Shack**, so it's fair to say that things are going well for the new band. Here's hoping for more soon!

Samantha Daly



R John Webb | The Bridge

Ryan John Webb is a Birmingham based multi-instrumentalist, singer-songwriter, poet and illustrator, who has previously performed across the UK both solo and with former band **Rhino And The Ranters**, appearing at numerous festivals including **Lunar, Shambala, Bearded Theory** and **Moseley Folk Festival**, where he headlined on the second stage. Ryan has also shared the stage with the likes of CW Stoneking, Soledad Brothers, The Levellers and The Wonder Stuff among others.

Following a farewell **Rhino And The Ranters** gig, Webb has been finding his feet as a solo artist, with a bout of writing culminating in the releases of a brand new EP, *The Bridge*.

The new, four-track affair opens with "*Guajira*", which sees Ryan weave an intoxicating brew of influences to create a sound that equally compels and grips. Beginning with a Celtic-inspired hokum, Webb sets off at pace, with a combination of driving acoustic strums and intricate plucks, delivering a delicious folky lead that carries us to the track's choral payoff, complete with primal, wordless hollers and strident hook-laden harmonies. As the track hurtles towards its conclusion, Webb throws in a wheezy harmonica and a few more whoops for good measure, ensuring the listener is either sat bolt upright or charging round the room like a man possessed in sheer delight (depending on their demeanour), before closing on a rather more sedate piano based outro.



Talking of piano, "*We Are The Subterraneans*" follows, and sees Webb pounding the ivories and shaking the hell out of a tambourine, as he delivers what can only be described as the sort of three and half minute, infectious glam-stomper you might expect from fellow musical maverick **Jez Delorean** (of **Tankus The Henge** fame, high praise indeed) and similarly it's short, sharp, inventive and addictive as hell.

"*Deadlands*" sees Webb change direction again; he dons a Stetson, grabs a banjo and produces a delicious slice of back-porch, off-kilter Americana, before bringing the EP to a close with the near six-minute, stripped-back folk of "*These Strings Of The Old Guitar*". It's a beautifully weathered lament that welcomes back that Dylan-esque harmonica and the appropriate, worn tones of

Ryan's faithful acoustic to accompany his yearning lead vocal.

The Bridge may signal new beginnings for Webb, but these four tracks are an enticing and uniquely compelling proposition, as **R John Webb** reaffirms his position as a lyrical and musical master craftsman with his must hear, debut solo affair.

www.rjohnwebb.bandcamp.com

Will Munn

Tom Martin | Temporary Identity

For those not in the know **Tom Martin** has been running the **Tower of Song** music venue in Cotteridge, Birmingham for some years now. He opened it with the intention of putting the music first unlike alot of pub venues where artists are treated as background entertainment. The success & longevity of Tower of Song is testament not only to Tom Martin's nousse but the good people of The Second City's (& beyond) taste & appetite for quality music.

Tom himself hails from the fine city of Belfast & arrived with a fine reputation as a guitarist-singer-songwriter and listening to this his latest in a long line of albums, it's easy to see why.

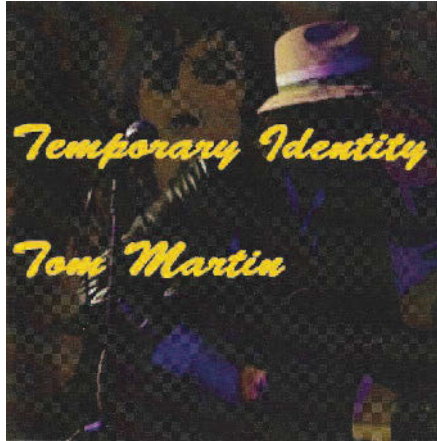
Unsurprisingly given the name of his venue the spirit of dear lamented Leonard Cohen is never far from the mix & the whole album is inspired I'm sure by LC & other such venerable folk as Bobby Zimmerman & The No:1 Musical Export from Belfast, Van Morrison.

Unfortunately the song titles & running order on the cover are pretty much in total disarray and it took this dozy reviewer a while to suss what was going on; hopefully mine was just a review copy and the proper album will have it all sorted.

Anyway it made for investigative listening as we kick off with the Dylan meets Waits opener *Another Operator* which swings and lopes along nicely & includes a tasty sax solo, strangely the only time the instrument makes an appearance on the album.

You can't knock the instrumental variety though as we get some floating flute anointing the second track *Twisting In The Wind* which has a moody Celtic atmosphere with a hint of Knopfler for good luck.

Again highlighting the diversity within, some choppy mandolin informs next number *Dark Town* which is a trenchant diatribe against our modern industrial world.



Broken Bones brings the ghost of Lenny C to the fore as the sonorous production & deep soulful voice pays homage to the Great Man.

Though **Tom Martin** may wear his influences proudly make no mistake, this album is his and there is plenty originality within: and so to *The Darkening Dock* where Tom stakes his claim to be included in the pantheon of road-hardened & troubled troubadours.

A wizened & wounded warrior of the word he is and he takes his place in the hall of fame/infamy with ease and aplomb a-plenty as we step out into *Sunlight*. This tune motors along in the dust and the dirt of the day. Full of verve *Sunlight* takes us back to Dire Straits territory with guitar somewhat reminiscent of the percussive bagpipe stylings of Runrig & Big Country.

Elsewhere we get lovely touches of the best of country & pedal steel on the title track and *An Unknown Length of Time*.

Tom doffs his tifter towards his Belfast forebear Van the Man on *You Make Good Things Happen* as he 'borrows' the melody and lines from *Dweller On The Threshold*.

The whole of *Temporary Identity* is imbued with evocative imagery & atmospherics woven together by Martin's top-rate guitar picking & to emphasise this and the instrumental cornucopia we are taken out on a final journey to Richmond Hill as a quite lovely cello undertow weaves in and out of the soundscape.

This final track just underlines the panache and flair which pervades the whole of *Temporary Identity* and if you pop along to www.towerofsong.co.uk and of course the venerable venue itself, many more such aural delights will unfold before ye.

Tom Martin has worked tirelessly to bring not just his own superior music to the community but that of many others. He deserves your support and believe me you'll be glad you got involved.

The Sisters of Misery

Ian Penfold Gone but not Forgot...

Evesham's musicians and music lovers alike were saddened to hear of the death of **Ian Penfold** at the age of 65.

He had a long career with the BBC as a broadcast engineer and lecturer, and then as a lecturer at Evesham College. He took early retirement and turned his energies to running open-mike nights at a variety of venues in the town. Ill health had dogged him for some years, and although recently dropping out of the playing side of music he devoted his time to recording artists at the Red Lion and putting photos and songs on the web.

He never had a bad word for anybody, if an artist he saw wasn't exactly top-notch he would wave it off and say they would be better next time. He was even quite sanguine after he was hurt in a robbery. He died on the 5th of October but his memory will live on.

John Reeves



Chris Cleverley

We Sat Back And Watched It Unfold

Four or so years ago, I had the fortune to review *Apparitions*, the debut album by Birmingham based alternative folk artist, **Chris Cleverley**, as well as catching perform live on a couple of occasions, back then Cleverley transfixed the listener with his stripped back, ghostly sound and it was hard not to be drawn into his compelling world. Following on from the release of *Apparitions* and deserved plaudits from the everyone from the Daily Telegraph to R2 through to contemporaries such as Martin Simpson and Eleanor McEvoy, Chris has continued to write, develop and perform across the UK festival scene as well sharing the stage with such folk heavyweights such as Spiers & Boden, Martha Tilston and Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman among others.

Following on such successes, Chris, returned to the studio with acclaimed and award winning producer **Sam Kelly**, along with a host of the finest names in contemporary folk to record his follow-up album, *We Sat Back And Watched It Unfold*.

Whilst Cleverley's debut was a mostly stripped back and at times ethereal affair, *We Sat Back...* sees the singer-songwriter embrace a number of new influences, often layering dense instrumentation and bewitching choral arrangements alongside that stunning finger-picking guitar style, we've become accustomed to, far expanding his visions, creating rich new landscapes along the way. Lyrically Chris has moved beyond ghostly women and lonesome clock towers, taking a look at the modern day issues of love, compassion, hope, society ills and mental health over an emotionally charged twelve-track affair.

The Arrows And The Armour opens proceedings and from the get go you can hear the sophomore album is a very different beast from Cleverley's debut. The track is quite an upbeat affair that combining banjo, flute and violin with skipping waltz like rhythm and Chris's acoustic, whilst his instantly likeable breezy vocal is further peppered by luscious female harmonies as Cleverley paints a gorgeous ode to falling in love, as butterflies flutter where Cupid's arrow has pierced the armour and tried to eradicate the natural doubts and worries of a new relationship. It's a beautiful opening number that showcases Cleverley's poetic sensibilities as his leap from the page and embrace the listener, whilst the flights of **Katie Stevens** flute and the acapella outro crown an already winning formula.

Scarlet Letter continues the poetic feel of the album, as Chris tells the tale of the lure of a stranger and the woman who befalls for his charms and ultimately pays a heavy price for her infidelity. Again Cleverley's lyrics and delivery grabs the listener attention, whilst double bass, jazzy fingerpicked guitar and **Kim Lowing's** piano provide an inviting soundtrack as Cleverley pushes the folk boundaries.

The towering hook-laden near five-minute, title-track, may have a stirring choral refrain, but it also sees Chris attempt to address the nation, talking of watching the very values we were once founded on, slowly evaporate in the search of cost crunching and moving targets, again it's an affecting number lurches for the attention.

As previously mentioned Cleverley isn't afraid to look and raise awareness at the big issues, *A Voice For Those That Don't Have One* takes a hard look at anxiety and mental wellness, whilst the breath-taking rise and fall of *Happy And Proud*, calls for the rights to express your own identity and love the skin your in over a stirring mix of sweeping strings, rising choral vocals and a military drum tattoo crescendo. Whilst, *In A Dreamlike State* deals with the frailties of the body (and the wondering mind) during a (perhaps autobiographical) patient-visitor (mother and son) narration over deftly plucked guitar, banjo and a pulsing bass.

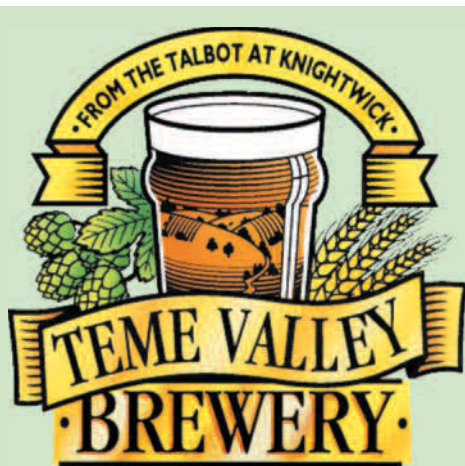
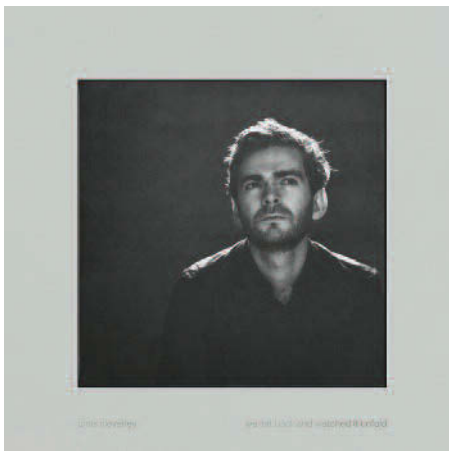
In-between social commentary and addressing the nations ills Chris still has time for a story orientated song or two, with the aforementioned *Scarlet Letter* and fellow album highlight, *Madame Moonshine* (with it's intoxicating cello and woozy vocals) being prime examples, as Cleverley proves an inventive and dexterous artist throughout the album's twelve track duration.

During *Dreamlike State*, Cleverley sings 'she said you have a way with words, I could never quite match' and oddly enough that line goes

some way to sum up *We Sat Back And Watched It Unfold* it it's entirety, because Chris does indeed have a way with words and few artists come close to matching his vision, as he delivers a truly special album that should see Birmingham's finest gatecrash end of year polls and be talked of in revered tones for years to come.

www.chriscleverley.com

Will Munn



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HEY YOU GUYS! Difficult Second Album

The wait is over local favourites (London and Berlin are local enough aren't they?), **Hey You Guys** make good on the promise of a *Difficult Second Album* with the release of a short, sharp ten track affair that's all thriller, no filler.

Opening with the sound of guitarist (and producer select) **Dave Draper** cranking his guitar, the rhythm section of **Oly Edkins** (bass) and **Ben Pemberton** soon muscle in as the band set the tone for the album with the trim two minute title track. As the flurry of clattered sticks and crunchy guitar riffs takes hold, frontman, **Pete Adams**, lurches for the mic to deliver that now infamous, half-holler, tongue firmly in cheek as he '*tries not to sound like the first one, on this difficult second album*' whilst name-checking Elvis, Buddy Holler and the Big Bopper as unlikely influences, throw in a group vocal hook, a brief instrumental break and a near metallic crescendo and hey presto those 'guy's' have delivered the perfect opening salvo.

Nanahara! Escape From The Island follows and **Hey You Guys** add to an already potent and addictive sound by inviting former Adams cohort, **Lucy Graham** to share the mic, bringing back memories of glitter punk heroes *And What Will Be Left Of Them*, only this time round Pete leaves the six-string duties to Draper and in turn he sets his amp to buzz and destroy, whilst Edkins stomps around like a man possessed, geed on by the heavy thud of Pemberton in the engine room.

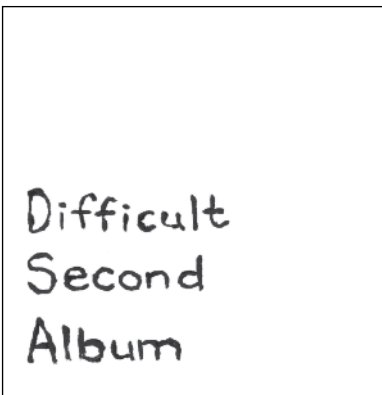
Oh Boy! Is perhaps the most contagious rock song of the year (yeah I know that's a bold statement... but hey I stand by it), opening with a rapid assault of the skins, an adrenaline fuelled Pemberton, propels the track at velocity, an instant punchy riff joins the mix before Pete works his way towards a fist in the air, shout along choral refrain, whilst the rest of the 'Guys pound (and dare I say groove) like their very lives depend on it, only drawing breath to yell in unison.

So ok, when making such a bold proclamation, I may not have taken into account the bombastic, fuzz-laden, recent single, *Where Are All My Friends?* Or indeed the riff-tastic *Supermarkets* with the it's unusual premise of dating between the shelves of Tesco (other supermarkets are available), oh and then there's the glorious, hand built for radio, indie-pop of *Bed Of Tears* that sees Draper mix up melodic riffs and twangs with hints of Wildhearts menace, whilst Adams delivers another one of those instantly

memorable leads that remains long after the song's played out. And then there's *Rio* and *We Are The Pigs* and the stop-start of long term live favourite *Thin Lips Vs Fat Lips* to consider...

The most difficult thing about **Hey You Guys** second album is trying to withstand the urge to crank the stereo to ear bleedingly loud and inviting the neighbours to join you in a street party celebrating the return of the true kings. Ten songs, twenty-seven minutes of pure rock 'n' roll nirvana.

Will Munn



Simon Deeley's *Blue Haze* play *Afan's Dance*

The Barrels, Hereford: 30 October 7.45

The Swan at Hay, Hay-on-Wye: 3 November 7.00

Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge: 8 November 7.45

The Dukes Arms, Presteigne: 20 November 8.00

The Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle: 27 November 7.45

*Hear the borders based group perform the tracks from their new CD **Afan's Dance** (just released). The album contains 9 tracks, all originals, composed by leader and keyboard player Simon Deeley. Rhythm-packed, in-the-groove, jazz-fusion tracks, alongside gentle atmospheric ballads.*



Tel: 07890 303681
@bluehazetrio



P.P. Arnold & Jon Allen Subscription Rooms, Stroud | 4th Oct

Enscorced in the Queen Vic prior to the evening's musical highlight, after a warm welcome from a sweet-hearted barmaid, whilst nursing a warm pint of Horizon (that Weller still insists on calling a livener) and reminiscing with the aging men at the bar, playing and re-playing their jukebox choices of Coventry ska, it was clear the tone had been set for the evening, if not for the weekend...

Jon Allen knows how to command a stage. The inner confidence allows for a warm rapport with his audience. The songs are well-crafted and the subtlety and humour shine – *"I've been on radio and everything"* – like a warm afterglow following the "angel's share" by a well-tended fire. His voice could accompany any Christmas advert, even the John Lewis Christmas advert. Allen was equally impressed with the venue: *"God this is posh."* The opulence of the surroundings, bejewelled with eight chandeliers, **The Subscription Rooms** in Stroud, is a fitting tribute to a performer who deserves greater recognition and a suitable venue for a Soul singer and survivor with quite a backstory.



P.P. Arnold sprinkles her on stage stories with anecdotes about Rod Stewart, tales about the Rolling Stones, and yarns about the music industry and the Gibb brothers. This is the songstress that left her American home at a young age, to pursue a career and escape an abusive relationship. Arnold has lived, experienced genuine pain and experienced personal highs, swam the ocean of the human condition and the colour of her life is the full spectrum of emotions and yet she is still part of the music scene after fifty years. P.P. Arnold's music is crafted from these life experiences. Respect.

The respectful and knowledgeable audience that filled the Sub-rooms that evening not only came to listen to that voice they also came in part to offer their respect. The appreciative applause that greeted Arnold's diminutive entrance let her know she couldn't fail – this was no hung parliament. Her smile began as disarming then became beguiling and then one of enjoyment as the night progressed. I always think that it is tellingly profound when a singer is never compared to another singer or contemporary: Arnold is an original one-off. The voice of **Pat Arnold** is still as impressive as the recordings I have been listening to for over thirty years.

24 SLAP NOVEMBER



The impressive nine-piece band – horn-section, rhythm-section, organist, guitarist and backing singers – crystallised into a band that delivered what Arnold needed and the audience desired. The sound they collectively produced was the result of hours of practise and the sound was aided with a worthy sound system.

The worthiness of the songs themselves could not be contained by the one and half hours - going beyond the gig - they are part of who we are. The horn-tinged version of *Eleanor Rigby* knocked the original into a cocked-hat, *Distant Drum* ensured we knew that Ms Arnold moves to her own rhythm and Magic Hour was simply enchanting. The voice soared, complemented and comforted, the message, sentiments or narrative never becoming lost in a note searching morass.

The anthemic highlight was the incomparable - *"The First Cut is the Deepest"* – bought from Cat Stevens and *"recorded ten years before Rod"*, the track has for many become Arnold's signature tune. With the singer at her most vulnerable and confessional we are subjected to an out-pouring of emotion that we are never going to forget and we haven't after fifty years. That voice, the voice, her voice filling the room like the innumerable number of devotes that had come to celebrate all of P. P. Arnold's achievements during her meandering and significant career.



I will allow the not insignificant STANDING OVATION acknowledged by all in the room to speak for its self. Respect.

After meandering around Stroud the morning after, following a stopover and finding myself ensconced in the **Trading Post** record shop, reminiscing over Donn Letts stories, whilst leaning on record boxes, we were also able to gush unashamedly about the **P.P. Arnold** gig we had all witnessed the night before and how the angel of the evening had surpassed our horizon of expectation:...*"what a voice"*...*"she's still got it"*... *"great sound system"*...*"I have never seen the Sub-rooms that full"*...*"an absolute joy to meet her afterwards"*. Accordingly, as it is fitting, I will allow the shop owner the final word on **P.P. Arnold**: *"a sweetheart."*

Nicholas David Burford
Gary Lea Red Piranha Photography
www.redpiranhaphotography.co.uk

Granny's Attic

Huntingdon Hall Worcester | 19th Oct

A few years back I was lucky enough to checkout Richard Thompson at the Huntingdon Hall in Worcester - as you'd expect it was a stunning performance from the giant of the English folk-rock scene including top-drawer ditties like Vincent Black Lightning and a couple of selections from *'Bright Lights'* - one of my all time fave albums. Naturally he also threw in classics like *Meet On The Ledge* from his time with Fairport Convention and he recently played the Royal Albert Hall in London to celebrate his 70th birthday!

Now there's not many currently active Hereford/Worcester musos that can also list an appearance at the RAH - I can certainly think of gypsy-jazzman Remi Harris - but there's also the alarmingly young and prodigious traditional folk outfit **Granny's Attic** who appeared there in 2014 as a result of the **BBC Radio 2 Young Folk** awards scheme.

I've been following the talented trio since hearing melodeon/concertina player **Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne** appear with his dad Peter at one of the early **Worcester Music Festival** folk events slung together by the wonderfully much-missed **John Taylor** - and being gobsmacked by the talent of the then 14 year old! Granny's Attic was formed in 2009 during lunchtimes at Bishop Perowne School in Worcester with **George Sansome** (guitar) and **Lewis Wood** (violin/mandolin) playing their first gig at Claines Church fete but since then have gained a slightly larger following and support and are now regulars at many summer folk festivals here and abroad!

So an absolute delight to check out their 10th anniversary gig at the atmospheric **Huntingdon Hall** - last there playing a support slot to **John Kirkpatrick** - but this was very much a celebration of



their decade and also the release of third album *Wheels Of The World* - well worth a listen! Many thanks to the Huntingdon Hall for the rarely granted privilege of taking pictures - but if you want any help with the lighting next time do give me a shout...

Sure there was very much a family and friends reunion feel to this gig - but also totally heartwarming to see a local outfit who've embraced a particular music genre that's enjoyed weekly in hundreds of clubs up and down the land - and in just a few years become masters of their art! They've got timeless originals such as *Royal Oak* (my favourite) - being very much a 21st century song in a centuries-old format. They've also developed into a complete act with banter and self-deprecating humour a-plenty scattered throughout their very thoughtful and well-structured two-part set!

But you don't have to be a trad folk fiend to enjoy this outfit - it's just a complete delight to see three genuine local up-and-coming musicians of total quality and craftsmanship at the top of their game and who can only go on to greater and better things - oh yes they're very well worth checking out indeed!

AOH (so-sue-me@live.co.uk)

Jimeoin

Forum Theatre, Malvern | 25th Oct

The Malvern Hills and the surrounding area are best known for their C18th landscape scenery and their potential for genteel walks of appreciation...



For one night at the **Forum Theatre, Malvern** was also synonymous with a gentle comic from Australia, via Ireland: **Jimeoin**. The comedian deftly took us for a calm meander through his skewed observations; a laidback promenade if you will through his reveries and asides; a relaxed circumspect ramble through the everyday comedy of everyday life. Who knew there is even comedy silver to be found in taking the bins out - in your pants?

The audience - and they came in their hundreds, were there for a self-knowing chortle and a low-key titter. Jimeoin does not produce huge bellicose laughs, or head back braying guffaws, Jimeoin's stock in trade is the gentle head shake and the quiet chuckle. Jimeoin knows his audience and they in turn know what to expect from him...a mutual cultural tour of the staid and the euphemistic variety.

For those expecting a scything satire on the 52 vs 48 predicament, would be leaving short changed. For those anticipating a splenetic diatribe informing BJ what to do with his misguided confidence or an angry monologue raging against JC and his seeming lack of confidence had better keep walking...I hear the scenery is breath-taking in these parts.

Part of Jimeoin's allure is that he doesn't offend, doesn't seek headlines and doesn't take you walking close to the cliff's edge in search of hollow thrills. Of course he poked fun at his Catholic(ish) upbringing and teased out a few stereotypes but, after all, there is a certain etiquette to subscribe to if you are Irish. Even the joke about his new shoes - *"I found them at the mosque, took me ages to choose them"* - would go down well at a primary school with an over-zealous Head teacher presiding over proceedings.

Jimeoin's gigs proceed with a gentle stroll through his material, a gracious nod and an appreciative wink. The comedian understands the power of inference and knows that you do not have to berate the audience with expletives and insults. There is toilet humour of course and plenty of it but God damn he didn't even swear until the second part of his show. The knowing looks and facial expressions suggest more than any profanity driven rant. Although, my partner is visually impaired and didn't catch any of the innuendo laced through the show as she simply couldn't see the facial-ticks or over-elaborate gurning. Shame.

Shame on you if you missed a comfortable and comforting night of comedy at the **Forum Theatre** - it's on your doorstep - just like the Malvern Hills and I bet you don't take them for granted?

Nicholas David Burford

Luna and the Moonhounds

The Bottle of Sauce, Cheltenham | 17 Oct

If you can imagine the love child of Jefferson Airplane and Moby Grape* had been brought up on a steady diet of modern alt-rock in the middle of Coventry, you might get a flavour of what **Luna and the Moonhounds** are about.

The band plays an eclectic mix of rock, blues and psych and benefits not only from its unusual amalgam of styles but also from the fact that there are three really good singers alternating the vocals.

Their debut EP, "*Handcrafted*" has been on heavy rotation in my car ever since I saw them for the first time last year, and they've followed it up this year with their first full-length effort "*Moonbase*" which is heavily showcased tonight.

There's been a subtle but perceptive shift in the power of the music on this new release - a cohesion and a relentless forward momentum that wasn't always evident on the EP, as good as it was.



'*Dancing With the Devil*' kicks us off with a bang, propelled by new bass player **James Phythian** and **Sam Barker-Poole's** drums and the power is sustained by the raucously anthemic '*Don't*



Follow Me', with considerable help on the chorus from a good travelling support. I've rarely seen an out-of-town band, especially one from quite a distance and on a Thursday at that, with such a dedicated bunch of followers. There is much dancing, including some smooth ballroom moves from one couple during one of the quieter passages.

Because as well as the power there's much subtlety and craft going on here, with twin guitarists, **Joseph Rudman** and **Ben Davies** both contributing excellent lead vocals. This is a proper dual lead attack and there are times, especially during the ensemble lead passages in the more blues and psych-inflected numbers that the music drifts right back to the sixties with delicate swirling patterns but never at the cost of losing the listeners' attention - a delicate balance beautifully achieved.

And last but definitely not least, there's lead singer **Aimee Goodall** and her extraordinary voice, which seems to have increased in power and intensity since I saw them last but without any loss of enunciation - her lyrical delivery remains clear as a bell.

All these elements come together in what for me is the track of the night, '*Keep it Rainin*' - the guitarists riffing constantly over the chugging, blues-based beat while Aimee raises herself up on tiptoe, wringing every last drop of emotion out of the soulful vocal. Amazing.

A most unusual and entertaining band - modern as an iPhone 11 and retro as corduroy. Brilliant.

*Sorry, youngsters - you're gonna have to Wiki these...

Geoffrey Head

Six Seconds To Run

Worcester Arts Workshop | 27th Sept

This was one of the first gigs by this Evesham based band. I gather that they were friends who wrote a few songs together, played a few open-mike nights, got a drummer, recorded a four song EP and have played a few gigs this year

It was in the lounge of the WAW not the large room downstairs, and the size of the crowd suggested this was the wise choice.

Even with the brightly lit room and few in attendance, they were full of confidence and played at a level that was beyond their relative lack of experience as a band. But the band knuckled down and played two assured sets. The singer **Lee Marks** sang with skill and dealt well with a bit of good natured chat from the audience. The bassist & drummer (**Tom Prater** & **Robbie Kerr** respectively) played well and **Eric Cook** played tight economical guitar, and sang an occasional backing vocal.

Their material was a 60 to 40 mix of originals to covers, with all four songs from their recent EP being played, as well as some other self-penned numbers. The songs from the EP really came alive in a live setting. For me "*World of Uncertainty*" was the stand out song from that EP. Quite why the singer referred to it as his child's lullaby song escaped me though. Two of their songs were

said to have a "*political edge*", but I would have to listen to the words some more to comment on that observation. The covers included rousing versions of Nirvanas "*In Bloom*" and the Levellers "*15 years*". So on to the encores. A request from the audience for the Who's "*Behind Blue Eyes*" was initially met with confusion by the band. I gather it went back into the bands (short) history. It went back so far as to be unknown to the drummer and required Lee to use his lyric book. The final song was "*Californication*" by the Red Hot Chilli Peppers.

To sum up, the conditions weren't conducive to it feeling like a gig, but it as a warm up to the bands appearance at the **Dub Festival** later that weekend, but it was a success. It certainly whetted my appetite to see them again.

John Reeves



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Rock Around The Hills

Although perhaps hard to believe now, what with its' air of gentility, but not so long-ago **Malvern's Winter Gardens** was an important and respected venue on the UK rock circuit. A fact which, throughout the sixties, seventies and eighties, ensured that many of the biggest names in rock music from all over the world played the venue.

To celebrate this impressive legacy, earlier this year the **Rock Around The Hills** project www.malvernrockarchive.org.uk put together an excellent exhibition charting the venue's rock 'n' roll history from 1960 until 1990. Using, among many other things, original memorabilia, interactive displays and eyewitness accounts the exhibit, which was originally based at Malvern Library and later The Hive in Worcester, proved highly popular with rock fans, social historians and the simply curious alike.

Rock Around The Hills are now pleased to offer reproduction posters from a number of shows booked in to the Winter Gardens by **Cherry Red promotions**. All profit from sales will go to the very worthy **Severn Arts Charity**.

Each poster measures 20" x 30" and is an exact replica of the original. Printed on 250g silk paper, all runs are limited to just 25 hand numbered prints. All will come with a COA signed by Cherry Red co-founder and Rock Around The Hills trustee Richard Jones.

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Worleys Up and Coming Night White Noise Cinema, Chube Esther Turner, Jessie Reid Worleys at The Swan, Stourport | Thurs 3rd Oct

Even though it's 20 minutes until the live music starts, you're already immersed in music and its trappings at this tremendous venue - guitars in cases, vinyl albums and gig posters line the walls - Marshall and Orange amp grilles line the bar and stage area.

This is yet another **Chloe Mogg** initiative, this time in conjunction with her fellow singer/songwriter, **Hannah Law** - promising talented unsigned acts aplenty and widely diverse bills.

Jessie Reid is first up tonight and I've been keen to see her again since she lit up a 'Female Voices' evening with her astonishing guitar playing. There's just one problem - her guitar jack isn't playing ball tonight - under normal circumstances it would normally just be a question of swapping guitars with one of the other artists on the bill. But this is no normal guitar player. Enter, our sound tech for the evening, **Albert Stevens** who plays an absolute blinder throughout whatever he's confronted with, and with Jessie alternatively amplified, we're under way.



And goodness me, it's such a pleasure to watch this young woman's hands flying all over the fret board, producing the most glorious and complex sounds. 'Time Goes By' will always be my favourite, I think but there are gems like 'Heavy Heart' and 'Stay With Me' right through this set - as good as the guitar's mic setup is, I'm worried about the sound when she does go full bidextral, laying the guitar across her lap, but the place is still sufficiently quiet and attentive to allow us to appreciate every nuance of the performance. A very talented artist.

Now, my regular readers - all five of you - will know that electro pop and dance rates very near the foot of my '100 most enjoyable genres' list, so despite me thoroughly enjoying **Esther Turner's** multi-faceted music, I'm a bit startled when I see her stage setup evolving - I mean, where's the guitar? This turns out to be a hugely enjoyable set, and one aspect of it pretty much rewrites the book on how to make music like this.

The whole set is built from scratch. There's not a pre-recorded backing track in sight. Beats are created and looped live with the help of a fellow percussionist, samples are fed in from a Launch Pad and the whole thing is processed in real time through Ableton software on a glowing Mac at centre stage. Anyone who's seen Rookes play will be familiar with this way of making music but it's a bold move indeed to apply it to pop and dance. And then, of course, there's this young woman's amazing voice putting the icing on the cake - 'Tequila' fairly sizzles with energy, boosted by the singer's exuberant stage presence.



But it's with the final song, the slightly slower and more textured 'The Great Escape', that the full potential of what she's doing here comes together. It's a really outstanding track. Wonderful stuff.



There's been a looming presence onstage all night - it's an electric blue full-sized harp and **Ben Creighton Griffiths** from Cardiff jazz fusion ensemble, **Chube** is just about to play the life out of it. It's a remarkable set - there was such an astonishing mix of jazz styles on show, as well as dazzling musicianship. There were plenty of original pieces, primarily from their self-titled debut EP, a couple bringing to mind Return to Forever, Weather Report and Herbie Hancock (youngsters, you'll have to Google this lot...).

This being jazz, there's covers too but not necessarily ones you'd expect. There's a thorough instrumental reworking of OutKast's, 'Hey Ya' and a distinctly heavy examination of Zeppelin's 'When The Levee Breaks', complete with a shredding harp solo - if you hadn't seen it, you wouldn't have believed it nor **Creighton Williams** playing the harp and a keyboard simultaneously! The freedom to play like that needs a first class rhythm section and with **Aeddan Williams** bass (some excellent solo work from him as well) and **Matt Williams** constantly shifting drum patterns, that's exactly what this band's got. A brisk piece of Miles Davis to finish with and we're all left to pick our jaws up off the floor. Follow that...

And **White Noise Cinema** do exactly that, and with some style. This is a thundering herd of a band - as well as the traditional drums, bass and guitar core, they have no less than three keyboard players. I've described their sound before on these pages as 'heavy electronica' and at the moment, I can't think of any better description because they make a highly nuanced genre-defying sound that is by turns, eerie, pulsating, melodic, heavy and intensely absorbing.

Their new single 'Reaction', played early in the set, is a perfect example of their versatility. It's bears all of their regular hallmarks but is probably their most commercially accessible track to date.

You'd think with such instrumental firepower as well, that the vocal side of the band might be neglected but lead singer **Benjamin Hiorns**, strongly supported by **Tom Paine** make sure that the quality is kept high throughout all aspects of the band's music.

When they do let loose properly, it's an awesome sound, the power flooding off the stage in waves, but equally when they turn on the melody, a track like 'Back Scatter' for instance, the full extent of the band's depth comes into sharp focus.

What we really need now is an EP, or preferably an album to get this sound to a wider audience, and at that point I think things are going to get very interesting indeed.



A splendidly diverse night of music - keep an eye out for the next one! **Worley's Up and Coming Night** is sponsored by Heineken.

Geoffrey Head



Catgod

WOLFS



Winnie and the Rockettes



Death of the Maiden

All Tamara's Parties

The Jericho Tavern, Oxford | 5th October

From time to time, intrepid reporters from SLAP set out fearlessly across country to bring you news of music from other places, so that when these bands visit our area, you'll know how good they are and what to expect.

All Tamara's Parties, run by Oxford musician **Tamara Parsons-Baker** (see what she did there?) puts on regular events in Oxford and also holds this annual all-day at the excellent **Jericho Tavern** venue, showcasing not only the cream of Oxford artists but also selected acts from other towns and cities.

This eleven act presentation, encompassing everything from reflective solo artists right through to raucous post punk, achieved something I'd considered almost impossible. I'd only seen two of these acts perform before - Tamara's own band, **Death of the Maiden** and the deeply wonderful **Catgod**, but there's not a single one of the new artists I saw for the first time that I didn't enjoy and wouldn't see again, given the chance. That's how high the standard was.

Writing about this amazing, exhausting day would take up half the magazine, so instead here's a selection of pictures I took during the event, and I'd invite you to check out the artists' Facebook pages and YouTube output to see for yourselves why I enjoyed them so much. - A brilliant trip!

Geoffrey Head



Drunken Butterfly



Self Help



Rainbow Reservoir



Ghosts in the Photographs



Jen Berkova



Joely



The Other Ones

Walter Trout & Dan Patlansky Birmingham Town Hall | 9th Oct

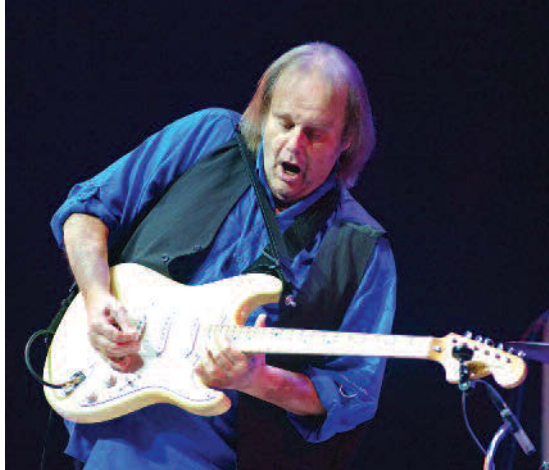
I don't need to tell you that legendary Blues icon **Walter Trout** is a highly prized catch round these parts! And with **Dan Patlansky** arriving from the warm waters of South Africa, road-worn Strat in hand, this is one hell of a temptation to anyone angling for an evening at the Rock pool.

With acclaimed albums *Perfection Kills* and *Introvergo* under his belt, there's plenty to singe the ears off the crowd at tonight's sell-out show. Dan takes the stage, diving straight into a searing, rock-driven instrumental. If anyone's here only for Walter, they're sure to be listening now. Paying tribute to the man who first inspired him to pick up a guitar, BB King's "You Upsets Me Baby" rings out. Dan's no BB; this is a seriously rock-edged rendition, with soaring riffs and strings bent just short of breaking point, but that old Fender takes it all. With a hint at a new album, Dan tests response for "Soul Parasite", not to worry, it's a hit, and decided in a "Heartbeat". The slow, gorgeously rich and emotive "Big Things Going Down" may have been written a decade ago, but age has only enhanced its flavour; a lovely demonstration of Patlansky's guitar credentials.



The band stretch out into jamming, rock hedonism; their closing run, a sort of hyper-drive through spatial prog rock that finds Dean on keys, returning serve to Dan, his guitar held out reverentially, winding and distorting as springs and strings are tickled at their roots. The guitar is pulled back as Dan hits the note, leaving it to hang as he yo-yo's the Strat from its stretched wire, drawing his set to a close. As ever, a stunning show from the rapidly rising rock rebel.

Walter's life-threatening illness and subsequent return is stuff of legend, a test failed by so many in their rock'n'roll, drink and drugs lifestyle. Now a fervent patron of the British Liver Trust, we can all be thankful for his 'second chance'. Much of Walter's recent work reflects on darker times, to great effect which, coupled with his wonderful, self-depreciative humour, goes down well with the full house (admittedly, of his peers). The air is electric as Trout lets his guitar introduce itself to the crowd. On stage are bassist **Johnny Griparic**, a Swedish axeman, **Terry Andreadis** from the states on keys, and California's **Michael Leasure** behind the drums, and they're ready to rock, "I Can Tell". The album *Survivor Blues* isn't



so much about Walter's salvation, rather the lesser-known Blues of Jimmy Dawkins' "Me, My Guitar And The Blues", played with a beautiful, passionate delivery full of stratospheric guitar and slow, sullen lyrics, definitely worthy of Walter's attention.

Johnny breaks one of those heavy cables; it's time to relate a trip over to John Bonham's grave, to leave a pair of Michael's drum sticks in a token of respect. Walter's getting hot and sticky, "all the best things that happened to me have been when I'm hot and sweaty," he launches into the punchy lines of "Saw My Mama Cryin'", a searing, heartfelt burner. Walter plays as only Walter can, in rock blues heaven. "I've been loved and I've been hated. Been lost in my illusions, and tugged back down to size," welcome to the "Human Race"; Trout's in a self-confessional mood as he growls out his blues.

Always one to invite a few guests along, Walter summons local keyboard queen **Emma Jonson** to the stage. "Gonna Hurt Like Hell" brings barrel-rolling piano, as Walter and Emma swap riffs, reshaping the song into whatever direction calls out to them. It's all 'trials and tribulations', as Terry turns to a bit of harp and Walter sets sail aboard a lovely, Mississippi drift; a tale of how, when playing with John Mayall, they were supported by 17-year-old Jeff Healey, blind and playing lap guitar in his own unique way. Walter had happened upon his next guest on YouTube, playing in a similar style. Vince White settles onstage and they rip into "Working Overtime", breaking into an inevitable jam of ping-ponging riffs and chords. Vince excels, leading Walter to suggest we should blindfold him next time... But time's running away, and he turns back to *Survivor Blues* and an old, NY street musician, as the "Red Sun" brings this blistering evening to a smouldering end. An evening of great rock and blues, and a full crowd for young pretender **Dan Patlansky**, and the enduring maestro **Walter Trout**, borrowing from Dylan to sing us out with a fitting "I Shall Be Released."

Graham Munn

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Kris Barras Band

The Robin 2 | Oct 15th

It's a welcome return for **Kris Barras**, whose history as a professional mixed martial arts fighter saw him travelling to Vegas, Singapore and Thailand. *"People used to think I was crazy to be fighting in cages, risking damage to my hands. Truth is though, I always enjoyed it and found that the fighting world offered me more opportunities than the Music industry. I got to fight in front of 8000 people in Asia... I would've much rather had played to them instead of getting punched in the face!"*

After his first support gig at **The Robin**, the venue remains a favourite for Kris. Needless to say, with his status today, the place is packed in as tight as a boxer's glove. Adding extra dimension to the evening of rock, **Wille & The Bandits**, another band with a huge following, are up first in support.

Many will be aware that Andy and Matt are to part from Wille, as their respective lives are evolving with new families and demands. They'll be sorely missed, but their exit opens space for new desperadoes to join the gang! On this occasion Andy is joined by Jacob Kodicek on keyboard, bassist **Harry Mackaill** and, of course, Wille, blasting away on his Gibson with the batshit crazy *"Victim To The Night"*. A rapping *"Make Love"* draws the crowd to surrender all to the Bandits. *"Keep It On The Down Low"* thumps out, it might not be Matt's might 6-string, but Harry's got it more than covered. Andy beats the crap out of his drums, and Jacob's keys add extra 'width' to a wonderful Wille classic. The mood changes, dropping down a gear for the emotive *"4 Million Days"*; it's hauntingly beautiful and full of passion. There's time enough to throw in a couple of rockers; *"1970"* is a nod to all the great music from their parents' era. Sorry to say this, but the 60s really were the bedrock days, but then again, I am ancient. The finale is, as ever, *"Bad News"*, though who can tell what the future holds. I'll keep the faith – and that's sod all to do with Northern Soul.

Follow that, Kris! And, of course, he does. There's no denying the man plays some serious guitar; his Bacchus beasts truly *"Light It Up"* in a visual explosion to match the sizzling guitar and gruff lyrics. **Elliott Blacker** poses arrogantly with his bass, pumping out the rhythm echoed by drummer **Will Beavis** from his podium above. Kris fronts up to his bike chain mic stand, Josiah mans the keys, and out from the shadows the girls bring a splash of colour to the sound, and some glamour to the set.

Pump, pump, pump, the rhythm punches harder than a cage fighter! Sorry Kris, what you see really is *"What You Get"*; fabulous guitar riffs, rocking & reeling, and avoiding the knock-out punch. Fingers are rapidly kneading at taught strings while bass throbs, and Elliott's still posing! Time to roll the dice, Kris might be a true *"Vegas Son"*, but he doesn't need to gamble with his future onstage; his reputation seems to grow exponentially, dice loaded to win. A thunderous drum solo from Will bridges the gap, before *"I'm Gone"*, a reflectional piece drawing on the cracked knuckles and *"Broken Teeth"* that are so close in memory; who else but Kris could have written this bruising bit of anthemic rock. Blistering guitar, rattling rhythm, and the girls singing out advice from his corner, brilliant.



The achingly beautiful, soulful *"Watching Over Me"* has Kris filling the air with lovely, mellow flowing guitar; a gorgeous contrast to his full-on rock blues. The slide's out and busy, the girls sing for a crowd pleasing *"Hail Mary"*, the drums beat out their tattoo and Kris is working the fans, who're ready with the chorus, you can cry hail Mary but she won't go. The guitar talks, everything drops to a ticking drum, the fans take over for their verse while Kris works his way through a lovely guitar solo; he's never going to walk away from this without giving more blood.

We're way past curfew time, but there's time for one more full round of rock, Josiah adds more scintillating keyboard magic to the muscular *"Lovers And Losers"*, as Kris goes in for the final round of a hard fought evening at the Robin, but the crowd is on his side. The guitar leads, sparring with those keys, the air buzzes with expectancy, and they keep slugging until the bell calls time. A brilliant and memorable evening, think I'll get a tattoo now!

Graham Munn



Skewwhiff album Launch Attila the Stockbroker The Marris Bar | Friday 18th Oct

It was a night I had been really looking forward to. The album launch for Skewwhiff's album "*Cancelled Rearranged*" was long overdue with this second album having literally been cancelled and rearranged!



Andy O'Hare

The evening was opened by one of the band's biggest fans, who just happens to be the legendary punk poet **Attila the Stockbroker**. Attila warmed up the crowd with a sing-along to the tune of "*My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean*". Examining the diversion tactics used by parts of the press to distract from the *important issues of the day, the night started well with "A Picture of Prince Harry's Knob"*.

Attila took us through the highs and lows of family, death, Brexit,

love, injustice, respect, cancer and politics, and also made us laugh and cheer in equal measure. Stirring up and mixing up emotions is one of the similarities between the two acts of the night. And, finishing his brilliant set, Attila took his place amongst the other fans for the main event.

Living up to their misaligned name, **Skewwhiff** had somehow accidentally released the album digitally a couple of weeks prior to the launch night! It might have been a slip up, but allowing fans to enjoy and really absorb the songs in advance was part of what made the night so special. This wasn't an album launch which tests out newly hatched material on a curious old audience. This was a night of finely tuned material to a home crowd that knew, understood and loved the words and the message. After ten years of writing and playing together, with no a change of line-up **Skewwhiff** just get tighter, sharper and stronger.

Opening with "*1942*" the emotional rollercoaster continued. Starting with the skippy, chirpy innocent, hopes and dreams of a 19 year old, the up beat continues as the tones mature into the ordinary life of a 42 year old woman who is "*not pretty, just vacant*" and who has "*made no difference whatsoever*". And that's the thing about a Skewwhiff gig, you can enjoy the catchy tunes, and you can bounce about and smile and sing. But it's, the lyrics move and stay with you, and none more so than new albums the title track. This song is like a stab to the heart. The beautiful, but haunting "*Cancelled, Rearranged*" takes you through a journey that will be painfully familiar to anyone with addictions or poor mental health trying to navigate their own confused and chaotic way through the obstacles to treatment and support. The poignant, lingering melody which sounds out the emotional pain quickly falls away and twists and builds into the rhythmic but faceless, heartless, scripted demands of a broken system. This



Neil Woolford

was the night's most powerful moment which really hit hard. Even the legendary punk poet at the front, was seen to wipe away a tear.

It's hard to pick a best tune of the night as there are so many on the new album, which the band played in full, in the right order!!! "*Hey Mister*" took on a new life, as the we all sang along with the chorus! "*Leave the light on cause it's so dull inside your head!*" Tinging along is always a joy as you fade into to "*Perfect Picture*"! "*Doll Parts*" delights and disturbs in equal measure! But I think that "*Sammy Tones*" has to be the one that really got the room bouncing, and the one that I will keep playing "*over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and over and again! In my mind*" (and on CD and digitally!)

Finishing up with a couple of old favourites from the first album, the band seemed really pleased how the night had gone. And so they should! While the lyrics scream out beautifully dark and sharp observations of a messed up society, the great tunes touch your heart with a glimmer of hope. There are still things in life which are GREAT and this gig was one of them! Thanks **Skewwhiff**!

Next up for the 'Whiffs' is The Swan at Worly's in Stopurport pn the 7th before a return to The Marris Bar on the 10th Supporting Wave Pictures.

Words: Maria Baldwin

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The Dusk Brothers

Wotton-Under-Edge Blues Festival | 20th Sept

"There's a storm coming", bellowed **E (Iain) Moncrieff** as he grabs everyone's attention to kick off the **Wotton-Under-Edge Blues Festival**. Well, batten down the hatches as the Met Office has just named the **Dusk Brothers** as this year's biggest storm sensation!

Brothers Graeme and **Iain** from Bristol perform their 'dark swamp blues' using an array of self-built instruments: box guitar (also functions as a bass), resonator guitar, foot drums and cymbals – just a few of their vast selection. Each instrument is built and developed to obtain a specific sound and when all are played together the uproarious and exciting sound makes you feel as if you're caught in the crossfire of a scene from an old western movie!

Graeme's musical journey started when, as a lad, he wanted a drum kit for Christmas but was actually given a guitar! He subsequently progressed to song writing while using his own self-built, four-string guitar, honing that bluesy sound by experimenting with a slide. The band's lyrics are often about betrayal or revenge, however, when they draw a blank, the subject turns to rum - their favourite drink!



The evening starts off with a couple of belting tracks from their EP 'Storms, Rum, Liars & Guns' – 'Rum River' and 'Hold On' both bring the audience to the dance floor. The pace then picks up with a racy, hip-swinging, track 'Heart like an Ocean'. The box guitars and a background riff similar to a Kazoo give the band their unique sound - cymbals crash, foot drums bang and, to top it all, Graeme plays his harmonica. Watching and hearing these lads play as well as sing with perfect timing is pure magic and totally mesmerising. Who says it's only women who can multi task!

They continue to proceed to deliver a set list full of diverse tracks. "Keep my Window Closed" has a steady catchy beat and I detect a background riff, from E's guitar, similar to bluebottle's buzz. When they sing "No More Women" it is with a rawness that could convince you they're about to join a monastery! To add to the array of his instruments, 'E' picks up a violin he's made and plays it like a guitar. I hope that they incorporate this amazing sound on future recordings. He then plays it with a conventional bow in the song 'I'll give them Hell'.

At the time of writing, **The Dusk Brothers** are on a shortlist to audition for a much-coveted place on The Pilton Stage, Glastonbury 2020. Fingers crossed for them, however, this band is already a force to be reckoned with. Start the Christmas Party early and catch them performing on 7th December at the **Cross Keys** in Gloucester.

Megan White

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Blackballed

Katie Fitzgeralds | Friday 27th September

Since my last write up in March, **Blackballed's** journey has encountered a few hairpin bends. Drummer **Leon Gill** has, sadly, decided to hang up his sticks. Luckily though, the BB bus has now re-fuelled ready to carry on the blue/groove/rock trip with **Marshall Gill** behind the wheel (lead guitar and vocals), **Tom Wibberley** route master (Bass) and **Alex Whitehead** as conductor (drums).

It's an anxious time, for any band to incorporate change in an established line up, but this venue is intimate and has such a relaxed feel, that if Alex was nervous for his debut, he didn't show it. He looked at ease thrashing out the first track "*Shoes*". This is a single from their album '*Fulton's Point*' and it's such a great opener to get everyone in the party mood.

Unlike many other "Rock" bands, **Blackballed** songs are upbeat and not about death and destruction. A fun favourite of mine is '*Bucket List*' and it is a track which is very diverse. The introduction reminds me of a souped up version of "*My Sharona*" by The Knack and the lyrics, "*she drove a caravan all the way to Japan and when I came round I had to study oriental ways*" always brings a smile to my face. Well 岩石 (rock on!). The fast paced vocals are replaced by Marshall's gutsy guitar solo and Tom comes into his own, when the track is slowed to almost a halt. If he could get his bass to sound any lower, it would certainly suffer from decompression sickness, when it suddenly regains speed. Alex compliments bass and guitar perfectly and it's a real credit to him that he has blended into the band in such a short space of time.

Marshall performs some amazing finger gymnastics and despite not having his guitar slide, he made some great improvisation's to



the track '*55 Groove*', which brought out an array of riffs equivalent to back flips and somersaults, that Matt Whitlock would have been proud of. However, as he glided around the stage I think Marshall was more in competition with Michael Jackson's moonwalk!

With a relaxed evening taking shape - band and audience engaging in lively banter - I made my own contribution by presenting each band member with a plastic beaker displaying his personal mugshot. It was a joke I couldn't resist, as on a previous gig, they were prevented from taking glass tumblers on stage and given plastic sports beakers!

Scheduled to play at Planet RockStock festival in December and voted fourth in Planet Rock's 'Best New Band', hopefully with recognition from other sources, including radio stations, will follow for **Blackballed**. Perhaps one of their lyrics, from "*Shoes*" says all there is to say... "*Your day will come and I feel it too, my time to shine I tell you, is breaking through!*" Follow the band on Facebook and start your Easter Weekend on Good Friday, 10th April 2020 with a fun-filled evening when the band make a welcome return to **Katie Fitzgerald's** in Stourbridge.

Megan White

Clinton Baptiste

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester | 26th Oct

Clinton Baptiste's name is on the lips of everyone in the know, in the other worldly realm of the "Paranormalists" – yes, he has his detractors, there are the sceptics and the unconvinced – the insults have been scattered like so much un-environmentally friendly confetti: "he's a fake, a charlatan, a bit of a bell-end." However, the facts speak for themselves, how has he achieved such acclaim and kudos if his special power has not touched those when they were not suspecting? He has "bent over backwards to share his third eye" with the dispossessed, the vulnerable and the lost – keeping faith with those that have invested their faith in him. Praise be, the faithful descended despite the biblical floods, drawn like fairies to the bottom of the garden in those Victorian photographs to a beautiful converted church hall where the believers used to come to pray...how ironic.



Baptiste's show is more than mere parlour games. His skill, a very skill, is to consort with the spirits and filter their communication and that is how he has made his name and hard won reputation. Clinton is a card and tonight Baptiste was on fire; the cheap theatrics and histrionic displays gave an "Am Dram" quality to the proceedings; the spectacle as shoddy and ill-timed

as any school production from the 70s. This is parody on a whole new level, Spinal Tap may have secured the rock world's title but Clinton Baptiste has ransacked the world of the Medium & Psychics and reimagined a show that simply rips the piss with an unequivocal glee. This is pantomime for adults...oh, yes it is!

We were treated to spontaneous readings on the hoof. Is your name, "Joanne?", Jo?, Jessica, no...no...no...Juan?" Luckily the spirits were strong this evening but not as strong as the spirits imbibed by one or two in the audience, along with copious amounts of lager, cider and wine. But I guess we all saw that coming? Baptiste dealt deftly with the interruptions and at the times the voices seemed to come from the other side as only Baptiste could make sense of the garbled messages. It is hard to imagine a more reliable soothsayer treading the boards.

Personally, the irreverence shone like a HID light on high beam coming towards you late at night on the A449 – simply dazzling. No one or nothing was sacred: not the Queen, not serious illness, Droitwich town centre and not even Amanda Holden! Even audience members that were offered a free reading were treated with the same level of respect as luggage manhandled by airline baggage handlers.

Clinton Baptiste, handled the evening and the all too willing participants with professional aplomb. The audience that bought into the evening were there to laugh and subscribe to a night that was not for the faint hearted. Pantomime season has started early but I guess not everyone will buy into or even believe in the art-form... "oh, no they don't!"

The Swilgate Scuttler

www.towerofsong.co.uk

birmingham live music venue



Wed 6 Nov Rea River Roots The Tower featured artists Huw Knight & Viv Bell (first half 2 song floor spots, sign up from 8pm)

Thurs 7 Nov Crossroads Blues The Tower featured artists Ceri Justice and the Jury

Fri 8 Nov Folk/Blues and Beyond
£5 @ Door 8.30pm

Sat 9 Nov The Goatmen featuring Ian the Goat £5 @ Door 8.45pm.

Wed 13 Nov Rea River Roots guest Sonny Blokeman 8.30pm (first half 2 song floor spots, sign up from 8pm)

Thurs 14 Nov Crossroads Blues featured artists The Buzzing Hornets 8.30pm

Fri 15 Nov Chloe Mogg Alternative Folk
£5 @ Door 8.45pm

Sat 16 Nov Night Of Punk
£5 @ Door 8.45pm

Wed 20 Nov Rea River Roots guest Bryan Watkins (first half 2 song floor spots, sign up from 8pm)

Thurs 21 Nov Pete Gates Shadowplay

Fri 22 Nov Midnight City Soul £5 @ Door

Sat 23 Nov K.M.P Cris Tolley Americana
£5 @ Door 8.45pm

Sun 24 Nov Female Voices £5 @ Door 7.30pm

Wed 27 Nov Rea River Roots guest Dominic Crane Trio (first half 2 song floor spots, sign up from 8pm)

Thurs 28 Nov Imperfect Storm

Fri 29 Nov Melvin Hancox Rock'n'Roll band
£5 @ Door 8.45pm

Sat 30 Nov Tom Martin Celtic Soul
www.tommartinmusic.com
£5 @ Door 8.45pm

107 Pershore Road South, Kings Norton, Birmingham B30 3JX

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What's On?

at The Swan Theatre and Huntingdon Hall



Andy Irvine
5th November
- £15



Julie July Band
**WHO KNOWS WHERE
THE TIME GOES?**

Tribute to
Sandy Denny

9th
November
- £16



**Ian Siegal –
Unplugged**
12th November
- £16.50



The Poozies
14th November - £17.50



**Zoe Schwarz
Blue Commotion**
23rd November - £15



**King Pleasure
& The Biscuit Boys**
28th November - £18.50

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2nd December 2019 – 5th January 2020
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Odette Michell

The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden | 25th Sept

Great place to watch music this.

Although it's situated seemingly miles from anywhere, with artists performing in a truly tiny space, the quality of musician attracted to Paul's regular Wednesday night folk slot is astonishing. Solo performers can play with confidence, too because even though it's a pub where people come from a long way to eat the glorious food, there is a respect given to the performers here that is absent even in some dedicated music venues. There's the odd human foghorn, but where isn't there these days?

Tonight it's the turn of singer/songwriter **Odette Michell**, who's embarking on an extensive tour to present her debut album, *"The Wildest Rose"*, a refreshingly rapid follow up to her much acclaimed debut EP, *"By Way of Night"*.

After only a couple of songs, it's absolutely clear that we're in for an outstanding performance with her

strong, clear voice being complemented by her excellent finger style technique on both guitar, on which she delivers a DADGAD master class and also on gouzouki - a more robust version of the traditional Greek instrument but retaining its characteristic sound.

It's an instrument that also lends itself to Irish and Celtic influenced songs, of which several, melodic and robust, revive any dozing diners.

Her recorded work is well represented tonight, and there are some truly lovely songs of which *'Mockingbird'*, *'After The Hurricane'* and *'The Banks of Annalee'* stand out.

But there's some memorable covers as well. *'Who Knows Where The Time Goes'* is delivered respectfully and with great feeling and the bawdy *'Maids When You're Young'*, with huge gusto and much humour and her well deserved encore is the always delightful, *'The Lakes of Pontchartrain'*.

But for me, the outstanding track of the night is the newest one of the lot, *'Fortune and Folly'*, not yet recorded, about discovering a ruined house reclaimed by nature while out on a walk - lyrically and melodically, it's absolutely exquisite, and brings the place to a complete hush.

A very fine artist indeed.

Geoffrey Head





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Friday / Saturday 10.00 – 23.30

Sunday 10.00 – 16.00



📍 Paradiddles Music Café bar,
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🌐 www.paradiddlesbar.co.uk

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📷 instagram.com/paradiddlesbar



Worcester Music Festival

Raise Enough Money to Feed 350 People for Three Days

Over the course of three days, volunteers for the **Worcester Music Festival** raised a staggering £5,216.38 for **Worcester Foodbank**, a charity supporting vulnerable members of the local community.

The total raised will provide at least 350 local residents with emergency food for 3 days, preventing those at risk from going hungry. The funds will support the charity's ongoing work to offer nutritionally balanced meals to those who are in crisis.

The 2019 showcase took place between 13th and 15th September and saw over 250 performances take place. Musicians and artists travelled from across the country to perform for free to support the cause. Festival-goers made donations to the charity buckets available in venues and carried by the outrageously dressed charity team who donned a range of incredible fancy dress throughout the weekend.

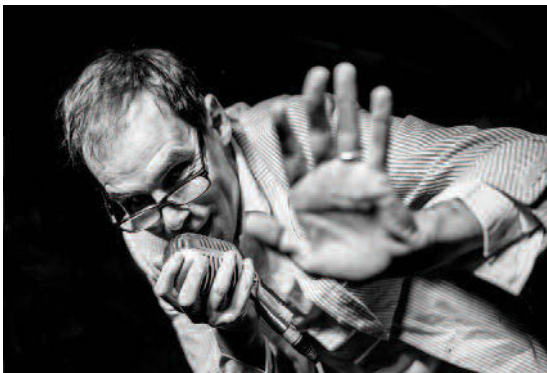
Grahame Lucas, Manager of Worcester Foodbank, said: "We're so grateful to everyone who donated during the festival and to the organisers for giving us such a great platform to raise awareness of hunger. It's a huge boost to our efforts to help the growing number of people who are turning to us for support."

Nicola Boraston, Festival Director, added: "We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our festival-goers. This year, our volunteers really have put their heart and soul into organising the event. From the artists and the sound engineers to charity collectors and promoters, the festival team would like to thank everyone involved for making this possible."

The cheque was presented at the festival's photography showcase where winners of this year's photography competition were also announced. Amateur photographers were invited to share their memories from the festival in a bid to win prizes donated by sponsors, **Annie's Burger Shack**.



Placed second was **Nigel Farr's** atmospheric shot of **Disrobe**, also at the **Firefly**. **Sarah Lissemore John** came third with her perfectly captured shot of **Zilch** at the **Firefly**.



And first came **Cerys John** with a resonating photo of **HEY YOU GUYS** at **The Marris Bar**.

Soon, **Worcester Music Festival** will be opening applications for local charities to apply to be the beneficiaries of 2020's event.

38 SLAP NOVEMBER

Live @
the Lamb & Flag

The Tything, Worcester
Sundays 8-10pm

Nov 3rd - Cheif O'Neill
Nov 10th - Jessica Munslow
Nov 17th - Gary O'Dea
Nov 24th - Chewie
Dec 1st - Emilie Elenore



@SugoLambAndFlag



lambandflagworces

Friday 01 November 2019

Town Of Cats

The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Strays

The Red Lion Inn, Huntley, Gloucester

Halloween Bandoke With Polkadot Robot

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Karen Swan And Friends

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Bleeding Hearts, Soulvation, Spiders Webb

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Sean Jeffrey

Tank, Gloucester

The Blues Band

Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Humdrum Express, Meme Detroit, Shotgun Marmalade

Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Geno Washington

Walls Club, Gloucester

Corduroy Kings

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Amazing Knight And Hodgetts

The Boathouse, Upton On Severn

Artigo Son

Left Bank, Hereford

Two Push Charlie

Gordon Bennett's, Hereford

Dave Onions

The Old Butcher Shop, Upton On Severn

The Desperados

Café René, Gloucester

Supanova

Drummonds, Worcester

The Official Receivers

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

The New Jersey Boys

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Kerry Smyth

Hickory's Smokehouse, Worcester

Gas Attack, Skora, Halloween Party

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Melvin Hancox

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Tyler Massey Trio

The Yew Tree, Longhope

The Rockbottoms & Friends

The Moat House Inn, Alcester

Charlie Waterford

The Alcester Inn, Alcester

The Debbie Parry Band

Marlbank Inn, Malvern

Ash Mandrake

Red Lion, Evesham

Lisa Mills, Sunjay

St George's Hall, Bewdley

Meg Shaw

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Fred Zeppelin

Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Bromsgrove

Motley Crude, Poizon

The Iron Road, Pershore

Rattlesnake Jake

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

James Reidy

No. 3A, Bromsgrove

Encore - An Intimate Evening Of Musical Theatre

Palace Theatre, Redditch

The Breakfast Club

The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

Wrong Jovi, Spitfire. 3Sixty

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Big Jim & The Black Cat Bones

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

The Rockbottoms & Friends

The Moat House Inn, Redditch

Paul Henshaw Album Release

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Maetlive & The Never Nerland Express

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Knight & Hodgetts

The Boathouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Marry Waterson & Emily Barker

Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

The Fabulous Persuaders

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Black Heart Angle

The Sociable Beer Co, Worcester

Witcher

The Trumpet, Evesham

Locked & Loaded

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Mike Allen

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Call Of The Kraken

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Delray Rockets

The Plough, Upton Upon Severn

Mr Marko'S Outer Space Emporium

Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Aaron Cook

The Sports & Social Club, Evesham

Gaz Brookfield, B-Sydes, John Diment

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Dodgy

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Saturday 02 November 2019

The Liquidators

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Jibbafish

Lower Lode Inn, Gloucester

Michael Christian Durrant And Samuel Moore

Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucester

The Foreman

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Old Wharf, Burning The Padre, Broken Lungs, Fade / / Decay

The Bell Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

Vaseline

The Railway Inn, Studley

Treble 4'S

The Cricketers, Worcester

Mzleading

Cheltenham Park Hotel & Spa, Gloucester

Pauly Zarb

The Albion, Tewkesbury

Vo Fletcher

The Boathouse, Upton On Severn

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds (5Pm)

The Royal Oak, Ledbury

Dawson Smith & The Dissenters

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Groovyhead

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Ronaldos

Gordon Bennett's, Hereford

Pete Harrington

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Tragic Magic

The Plough, Hereford

R P Mcmurphy

The Vaga, Hereford

Andy Robbins

The Imperial, Hereford

Under The Moon Festival

Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

G2 Definitive Genesis

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Kim Lowings & Andrew Lowings

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Transporters

The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Level Red

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Come Together

He Virgin Tavern, Worcester

Obscure

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Foyer Folk: The Night Watch

Number 8, Pershore

James Baker

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Endorphinmachine: The Prince Experience

The Iron Road, Pershore

Andrew Marc

Catshill Working Men's Club, Bromsgrove

Kemastree

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Matthew Bowen

The Express Inn, Malvern

Encore - An Intimate Evening Of Musical Theatre

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Over Atlantic

Woodland Cottage, Redditch

Okilly Dokilly, Redrum, Panic Switch, Diebartdie

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Mighty Boing

The Old Sticky Wicket, Redditch

Immy & The Boatman

The Green Dragon, Malvern

The Fish Brothers

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Coulrophobia

ALT, Cheltenham

Maetlive & The Never Nerland Express

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Nicholson
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Money For Nothing
The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

The Goodfella
The Foley Arms, Stourbridge

The Kris Chamber
The Mitre, Stourbridge

The Test Pilots
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Men in General
St James' Church, Welland, Worcester

Mzleading (5 Piece Covers Band)
Northend Vaults, Gloucester

Without Flight
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Dan Greenaway
The Dovey, Droitwich

Stourport Choral: Showstoppers
The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

Claire Flack
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Fret Wolf
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Dry River
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Seahorse Pilots
Offenham Royal British Legion Club, Evesham

Steve Page
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Ultimate Leppard (Def Leppard Tribute)
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Sunday 03 November 2019

Son Of Dave
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Will Killeen
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Vintage Inc
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

Melvin Hancox
The Albion, Tewkesbury

Orchestra Pro Anima
The Courtyard, Hereford

Little Dave
The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Amplified Heat (5pm)
The Imperial, Worcester

Journeyman
The Chestnut, Worcester

Cheif O'Neill
The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Laura Christopher
Bottles, Worcester

Wolfpeake, London Black. Arxx, Everything Is Teeth
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Emily Badger
The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Big Wolf Band (4pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Ray Stroud
Red Lion, Evesham

Just James
The Morgan, Malvern

Belshazzar'S Feast
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Under The Cover
Babar Cafe, Hereford

The Unconventionals Acoustic
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Moscow Drug Club
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

The James Brothers
Ye Olde Crown Inn., Stourport-On-Severn

Simon Dealey's Blue Haze
The Swan At Hay, Hay-On-Wye

Hawklords
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Monday 04 November 2019

Cherise Adams-Burnett: A Tribute To Ella Fitzgerald
Chapel Arts, Cheltenham

Tuesday 05 November 2019

Andy Irvine
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Wednesday 06 November 2019

Tyler Massey Trio
The Plough, Worcester

The Tannahill Weavers
The Courtyard, Hereford

40 SLAP NOVEMBER

Luke Doherty & Simon Parratt
Café René, Gloucester

The Dragon Folk Club: Sasscapella
The Dragon, Worcester

Gordon Wood, Phil Hambling's Van Morrison Tribute
Bayshill Inn, Cheltenham

Joe Brown
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Joe James Thomas
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Greg Brice
Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Crossroads Blues: Ceri Justice And The Jury
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

The Washboard Resonators
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Steve Mason
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Thursday 07 November 2019

Skewwhiff, Echo Gecco, Ellisha Green, Ruben Seabright
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Make Mine A Double
Tank, Gloucester

Shop Front Heroes, Subculture, Ben Johnson
Left Bank, Hereford

The Follicles
Tappeto Lounge, Kidderminster

Think Floyd
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Angel Snow
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

She'koyokh Quartet
Cawley Hall, Eye, Leominster

Dave Small
Arches Bewdley, Bewdley

Woo Town Hillbillies
No. 3A, Bromsgrove

Joe Brown
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Out Cold, Kite Thief, Vampire Money, Feed Me Milk
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Ben Wildsmith
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Rea River Roots: Huw Knight, Viv Bell
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Nick Harper
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

Hazel O'Connor - Hallelujah Moments
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Half Man Half Biscuit, The Humdrum Express
Robin 2, Bilston

Simon & Garfunkel
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Weirdshire With Nick Davies
Babar Cafe, Hereford

Friday 08 November 2019

Poor Nameless Boy
Atrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove

FCS: Inwards, Mutante, Rosebud
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Alex Chapman
The New Inn, Gloucester

Ladybellegate
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Issy Winstanley
Tank, Gloucester

Son Of John & John Parker
The Globe, Hay On Wye

The Strays
The Bluebell, Ryall, Upton On Severn

2Tone Revue
Left Bank, Hereford

The Institutions
Gordon Bennett'S, Hereford

Surman National Rum Day Ska Reggae And Soul
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Son Of What?! + Captain Gas
Café René, Gloucester

Woo Town Hillbillies
The Bush Inn, Worcester

Hyungi Lee
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Owaysis
Kidderminster Harriers FC, Kidderminster

Jamie Knight
Ye Olde Talbot Hotel, Worcester

6 Hands Guitar Trio: John Williams, John Etheridge & Gary Ryan
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Two Dollar Salad
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Supernova
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Third Verse

Red Lion, Evesham

Rough Diamonds, GR-VIII

SPARC - St Peter's Arts Church, Malvern

Polly Edwards

Colwall Park Hotel, Malvern

Becky Rose Lowe

Archway 49 (Worcester Brewing Co.), Worcester

Redfern, Hutchinson, Ross, Deep Love Foundation, Waco

The Iron Road, Pershore

Brass Beatz

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Josie Field

No. 3A, Bromsgrove

Will James

Stoke Prior Village Hall., Bromsgrove

Mice in A Matchbox, Sue Stevens

Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Mother Vulture, Sapphire Blues, Fawner. Time Of The Mouth

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Rattlesnake Jake

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Sean Mcgowan

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Eradikator

ALT, Cheltenham

Nirvana Uk

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Pete Sen & The Anthemn Sprinters

Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Folk/Blues And Beyond

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

The Heels

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Megan Strachan

Chapel Arts, Cheltenham

Groove Collider

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Flying Ant Day

The Sociable Beer Co, Worcester

Más Y Más

The Red Lion Amblecote, Stourbridge

Voodoo Blue

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Ship Of Fools

The Sober Parrot, Cheltenham

Joe Summers

The Cheltenham Stable, Cheltenham

The Charlton Blues Kings

The Royal, Cheltenham

Simon Dealey's Blue Haze

Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge

Rumour

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Dan & King Rich

The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Dr Cornelius

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Shades Of Grey

Yumi Yumi, Evesham

Howlin Matt

Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Ultimate Coldplay

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Saturday 09 November 2019

The Pilot Inn

The Pilot, Hardwick, Gloucester

The Rhythm Slingers

The Northend Vaults, Gloucester

Down Not Out + Others Tbc

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Immy And The Boatman, Claire Boswell, Theone Mae Dawes

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Erica

Croft Fam, Tewkesbury

Reload

The Cricketers, Worcester

The Leylines

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Woo Town Hillbillies

The Albion, Tewkesbury

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

The Beachamp Arms, Malvern

Prime Time

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Ct Riders

The Chestnut, Worcester

Forfeits

Gordon Bennett's, Hereford

Band On The Run

Cross Keys Inn, Goodrich, Hereford

Julie July Band

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Fleetwood Bac

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Jukebox Jems

The Weary Traveller, Kidderminster

Collette Carthy

The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Lotus Motion

The Sportsman, Kidderminster

The Goldhawk's Perform The Who's Tommy Album Live

Malvern Theatres, Malvern

The Pontiacs

Callow End Village Hall, Worcester

First Offence

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Aardvark Stew

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

The Songs Of Leonard Cohen - Keith James

Elmslie House, Malvern

Elvis Tribute

Kings Court Hotel, Alcester

Mister Wolf

The Swan, Port Street, Evesham

Treorchy Male Choir

Number 8, Pershore

Dr Busker

Pin Stoke Prior Sports & Country Club, Bromsgrove

Eliana Cargnelutti, Lee Ainley's Blues Storm

The Iron Road, Pershore

Ruben Seabright

Archway 49 (Worcester Brewing Co.), Worcester

Kia

Catshill Working Men's Club, Bromsgrove

The Refelctions

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Annette Gregory

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Big Jim & The Black Cat Bones

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Arrow Vale Singers

The Ark At St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

Krazylegz

The Rouslers Bar, Bromsgrove

Big Girls Don't Cry

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Rouge

Southcrest Manor Hotel, Redditch

The Catwalk Villains

Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Journeyman

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Eastwood

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Goatmen Featuring Ian The Goat

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Eyes. Je Suis

Stourbridge Cricket Club, Stourbridge

Good Thing Goin'

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Cross & Macca

The Bayshill, Cheltenham

O.C.D

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Jibbafish

The Exmouth Arms, Cheltenham

Fifty4

The Westcroft, Droitwich

Neil Ivison

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Lewis

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Stop Stop!

The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Gene Gene + The Lemon Squeezers

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Delray Rockets

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Whiteshillbillies

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Sunday 10 November 2019

The Leylines

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Vo Fletcher

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

The Ferrets (5pm)

The Imperial, Worcester

Jamie Knight

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Sultana Brothers

Gordon Bennett's, Hereford

Jessica Munslow

The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

The Carducci String Quartet

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Eleanor Mattley
The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Mat Walklate & Alex Haynes (4pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Andy Boucher
The Oak Inn At Staplow, Ledbury

Griff Collins
Red Lion, Evesham

Vincent Flats (3pm)
Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Amaretto Lounge
Babar Cafe, Hereford

Natural Right
Babar Cafe, Hereford

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Elisha Green
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Charlton Blues Kings
The Charlton Kings Club, Cheltenham

Bryn Teeling
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Te Wave Pictures, Skewwhiff
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Monday 11 November 2019

Fastlove - A Tribute To George Michael
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Tuesday 12 November 2019

The Music Of Carole King
The Courtyard, Hereford

Ian Siegal - Unplugged
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Respect: The Aretha Franklin Songbook
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Masterworks Concert
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Fleecey Folk: Daoiri Farrell
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

Wednesday 13 November 2019

Mark Harrison
Café René, Gloucester

Electric Raptor
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

Woo Town Hillbillies
Norries Cafe, Leominster

New Budapest Cafe Orchestra
SPARC - St Peter's Arts Church, Malvern

Gloucester Diamonds
Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Rea River Roots: Sonny Blokeman
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Thursday 14 November 2019

Son Of Town Hall
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Drew Hall
Tank, Gloucester

Daniel Karlsson Trio
Left Bank, Hereford

Kidderminster Jazz Club Featuring Swing From Paris
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

The Poozies
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Will Killeen
The Oil Basin, Worcester

Big Girls Don't Cry: Frankie Valli & The Hour Seasons Tribute
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Jake Riley
Arches Bewdley, Bewdley

The Sensational 60S Experience
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Crossroads Blues: The Buzzing Hornets
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Friday 15 November 2019

Professor No Hair And The Wig Lifters
The Prince Albert, Stroud

The UB40 Experience
Walls Club, Gloucester

The Rhythm Slingers
Tall Ships, Gloucester

Frankie Wesson
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Luke Philbrick
Tank, Gloucester

Connections
Cheltenham Park Hotel & Spa, Gloucester

Mark Harrison
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Britpop Reunion
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Forfeits
Gordon Bennett's, Hereford

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Pigdaze
The Barrels, Hereford

Two Push Charlie
Hogarth's, Hereford

The Vhts + Support
Café René, Gloucester

Baby Love
Drummonds, Worcester

Facestealers
The Blue Bell, Ryall

What The Floyd
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

Onside Charity: The VHTs, Ruben Seabright, Tree of Wyrd, Sleuth
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Abba Forever
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Dan & King Rich
Eagle & Spur, Cookley, Kidderminster

Gaf Franks, Bobby Smith, Macca, Adam Cross
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Junction 7
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Grizzly And The Grasshoppers
Winchcombe Live At White Hart, Winchcombe

Tone Tanner
Red Lion, Evesham

Everyday Heroes, Joanovarc, Verity White Band, Brake UK
The Iron Road, Pershore

Lucas D And The Groove Ghetto
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Dan Greenaway
No. 3A, Bromsgrove

Seven Drunken Nights - The Story Of The Dubliners
Palace Theatre, Redditch

The Will Killeen Band
The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

Cosmotheka And Friends
Palace Theatre, Redditch

2Tone Revue
The Queens Arms, Bromyard

Didgeridoo Sound Bath
Beoley Village Hall, Redditch

Forever Sabbath
Rocklands Club, Redditch

Link N Park, Profiler,Zookeeper, Museli
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Blood Oath
ALT, Cheltenham

Uk Guns N' Roses - Farewell Show
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Full Pelt
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Chloe Mogg
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

James Baker
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Paulo Pinto
Baci Ristorante Italiano, Stourbridge

The Pitmen Poets
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Black And Blues Band
The Mitre, Stourbridge

Groovey Head
The Sociable Beer Co, Worcester

Freefall
Whittle Taps, Cheltenham

Slowjin Acoustic
Merryfellow Inn, Cheltenham

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

Alex Bayross
The Cheltenham Stable, Cheltenham

The Follicles
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Loz Rabone
The Hampstall Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

The James Brothers
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Scott Dale Funk Band
Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Nine Below Zero
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Dreadzone
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Saturday 16 November 2019

Bourbon Alley
The Marris Bar, Worcester

David Bowie - Tribute Night
Hucclecote Community Association, Gloucester

Threepenny Bit
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Jonny Dalton
The Fountain Inn, Stroud

The Strays
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Counterfeit Stones
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Raising Cain
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

The Revolvers
The Northend Vaults, Gloucester

Valensole, Elkaphath, You're Still Dead,
The Dick Whittington Pub, Gloucester

Lighter Thieves
The Albion, Tewkesbury

Blackbeard's Tea Party
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Buddy Holly And The Cricketers
The Courtyard, Hereford

An English Idyll – Hereford Choral Society
The Courtyard, Hereford

Docrock
The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Warren James
The Chestnut, Worcester

Custard Connection
Gordon Bennett's, Hereford

Don'T Stop
The Plough, Hereford

She'koyokh
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

X-Rays, The VHT's + Special Guest Headliners
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Diamond - The Ultimate Tribute
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Abba Forever
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Amy Lou
The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Jay & Eli
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Chloe Mogg
The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Gaf Franks, Bobby Smith, Macca, Adam Cross
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Out Of The Shadows
Blakedown Parish Rooms, Kidderminster

Sultana Brothers
The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon, Kidderminster

The Uncanny Travellers Band
Malvern Motorcycle Club, Malvern Link

Pablo Alto 'Amnesia' Album Launch, Jonny Fluffypunk (3Pm)
Carnival Records, Malvern

4 The Record
The Unicorn, Malvern

Back In The Game
The Cross Keys, Malvern

The Budapest Café Orchestra
Number 8, Pershore

Devante
Catshill Working Men's Club, Bromsgrove

Mother Popcorn
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Melvin Hancox Band
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Barry Steele And Friends The Roy Orbison Story
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Faux Fighters, Jimmy Ate World, Courson
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Reflections
Beoley Village Hall, Redditch

The Debbie Parry Band
The Green Dragon, Malvern

The Reggultes Reggae Band
Bar10, Walsall

Steve Ajao
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Kick Up The 80s
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Version
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Parasitic Twins, Chain Of Dissent, Carnival Rejects, Victim Unit
The Mitre, Stourbridge

Mike Allen
Double Tree, Cheltenham

Clockwork
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Monkey Jam
The Ridge, Cheltenham

Witcher
Oak Apple, Worcester

Colin Pitts, Emi Mcdade, Mike Weaver
Oat Street Chapel Unitarian, Evesham

Chewie
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Cocked & Loaded
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Little Eagle
Stanton Village Club, Evesham

Stone Cold Country
Dumbleton Village Club, Evesham

Texas Tick Fever
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Boogie Wonderland
The Sub Rooms, Stroud

Sunday 17 November 2019

Christian Cox
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

The Rain Trees
The Albion, Tewkesbury

Bryn Thomas
The Nottingham Arms, Tewkesbury

The Unconventionals (5Pm)
The Imperial, Worcester

The Dick And Bob Show (4Pm)
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Mark Leedham
The Chestnut, Worcester

Gary O'Dea
The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Raymond Froggatt
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Ben M Webb
The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Will Killeen Band (4Pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Steve Herbert
The Ducker Bar, Leominster

Andrew James
Arrow Mill Hotel, Alcester

Pete From Hedgerow Crawlers & Rob The Busker
Red Lion, Evesham

Stolen Chocolate
The Bayshill, Cheltenham

The Follicles
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Motherland
Malvern Cube, Malvern

2 Tone Review
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Idlewild
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Monday 18 November 2019

Monster Truck
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Tuesday 19 November 2019

John Mayall, Connor Selby
Birmingham Town Hall, Birmingham

The Selector
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Wednesday 20 November 2019

Tristan Watson Jazz Trio
Café René, Gloucester

The Dragon Folk Club: John Mosedale
The Dragon, Worcester

Sofie Reed
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Zoe Wren
Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Rea River Roots: Bryan Watkins
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Julian Siegel
Chapel Arts, Cheltenham

Jamie Lenman
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Thursday 21 November 2019

Julu Irvine & Heg Brignall
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Dave Onions
The Plough, Worcester

Rob Mcween
Tank, Gloucester

Big Gigspanner Band
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Hooten Hallers
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Kev From Murmer
Arches Bewdley, Bewdley

The Five Hundred, Red Method, Skora, Kill For Trophies
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Pete Gates Shadowplay
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Luther
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Slippery Slope

Babar Cafe, Hereford

Folk in The Foyer: The Blue Motel

Evesham Arts Centre, Evedham

Matt Owens (Ex Noah And The Whale)

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Friday 22 November 2019

Mr Tea And The Minions

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Paul Henshaw And The Scientific Simpletons, Chevy Chase

Stole My Wife, Bekki Cameron

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Tcmi

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Brother From Another

Tank, Gloucester

XSLF

Left Bank, Hereford

Built For Comfort

The Chestnut, Worcester

Bones

Café René, Gloucester

Adge Uk

The Loom And Shuttle, Kidderminster

Chris Bannister Performs The Music Of John Denver

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Mark Bebbington

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

James Hickman

Ye Olde Talbot Hotel, Worcester

Kerry Smyth

Hickory's Smokehouse, Worcester

Lewis Clark

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Gunrunner

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Phil Whitehead (Single Release)

Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Skawaddy

The Alcester Inn, Alcester

Claire L Shaw

Red Lion, Evesham

The Follicles

Horn And Trumpet, Bewdley

Worcester Classical Guitar Society

Number 8, Pershore

Frog Souffle

Archway 49 (Worcester Brewing Co.), Worcester

Matt Bedford, Stef Brown

No. 3A, Bromsgrove

Moose Jaw

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Vice Squad, Ambition Demolition, Quiet Pills

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Amped, Kim Jennett, Myke Gray & 3Sixty

ALT, Cheltenham

Witcher

The Bell Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

Davey Malone

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Never The Bride

Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Oasis V The Stone Roses

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Pilchards

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Midnight City Soul

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

The Secret Cabaret

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Glenn Hughes

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

The SP Band

The Mitre, Stourbridge

The Pleasuredome

The Sociable Beer Co, Worcester

Area 51

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Three'S A Crowd

The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich

Barbican Quartet

Evesham Arts Centre, Evedham

James Baker

The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Suzie B

The Fairfield, Evesham

Vo & Trev

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wet Desert

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Harmonica Nick And The Defibrillators

Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Big Country

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

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Saturday 23 November 2019

Green Haze

The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Modfather

Baker Street, Gloucester

The Scribes

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Connections

Churchdown Community Centre, Gloucester

Davey Malone, Speedgums, Featherweight

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Skabuck

The Railway Inn, Studley

Hoggs Bison, Falling Stacks, Evil Owl

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Badly Parked Cars

The Miter, Stourbridge

Brynley Thomas

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Double Trouble

The Albion, Tewkesbury

Kizzy Crawford

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Jibbafish

Bar Severn, Upton On Severn

All Smiles In Wonderland, Squidge, Sub Cultures

Firefly, Hereford

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

The Gloster Arms, Malvern

Cracker & The Rockin 88's

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

The Ultimate Stone Roses, The Corteeners

Left Bank, Hereford

Elisabeth Schneider - Violin & William Howard - Piano

Hellens Manor, Hereford

Through The Decades With Roy Orbison & Buddy Ho

Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

The Jukebox Jems

Three Crowns & Sugar Loaf, Kidderminster

Zoe Schwarz Blue Commotion

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Linzi Jay

The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Dan And King Rich

The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Bourbon Alley Blues Band

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Strays

Reet Petite, Leominster

The Angellettes

Wharton Park Golf & Country Club, Alcester

Chevy Belair

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Stray, Del Bromham's Blues Devils

The Iron Road, Pershore

Groovyhead

Archway 49 (Worcester Brewing Co.), Worcester

Annuska

Catshill Working Men's Club, Bromsgrove

Under The Covers

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Tone Locked

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Children Of The Gravy - A Tribute To Black Sabbath

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Heart Of Anarchy: Dead Objectives, Terminal Rage, Indecent

Assault, Plane Crasher, Borrowed Time, Daves, Knock Off,

Alvin And The Angry Barrels, Deathtraps

The Herdsman, Hereford

The Black Pears

The Green Dragon, Malvern

One Tree Canyon

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Krysthla

ALT, Cheltenham

Rollin Sixes, More Human Than Human, Free Entry, Second

Selfand) Second Self

Re-Evolution, Cheltenham

Billy Walton Band

Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

The Commandments

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Gareth Lemon

The Botanist, Cheltenham

K.M.P Cris Tolley Americana

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Mrs Peel Jazz

Memsahib Gin & Tea Bar, Cheltenham

Black Heart Angels

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Gotta Groove

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Monkey Jam

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

T. Rextasy Acoustic Accompanied By The Mavron Quartet

Evesham Arts Centre, Evedham

Chloe Mogg
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Chalky
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Ray Mytton Band
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Ministry Of Swing
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Hundred Watt Club - Burlesque & Cabaret
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Rockaway Record Fairs Record & Cd Fair, Open 10-4pm,
Ashcroft Church Hall Ashcroft Road, Cirencester

Sunday 24 November 2019

Vo & Trevor
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Daniel B James
The Albion, Tewkesbury

Sax Appeal
The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Locked & Loaded (5pm)
The Imperial, Worcester

Kent Duchale
The Chestnut, Worcester

Chewie
The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Tor Phillips
The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Steeleye Span 50th Anniversary Tour
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

The Luke Doherty Band (4pm)
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The Mccurdy Brothers
The Boat Shack Cafe, Bromsgrove

Mark Hepworth
Red Lion, Evesham

Kent Duchaine
The Old Chestnut Tree Inn, Pershore

The Mccurdy Brothers
The Boat Shack, Bromsgrove

Bush Pilots (3pm)
Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Female Voices
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Caroline Ferguson
Babar Cafe, Hereford

Matt Sayers
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Rhiannon
The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

Rockaway Record Fairs Record & Cd Fair, Open 10-4pm, The
Cube Albert Road North, Malvern

Fleecey Folk: Will Pound
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

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

Monday 25 November 2019

George Hinchcliffe's Ukulele Orchestra Of Great Britain
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Tuesday 26 November 2019

Uncover: Some Bodies, The Devil & Joe Joseph
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Dusty Springfield
The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Wednesday 27 November 2019

Howlin' Mat
Café René, Gloucester

The Simon & Garfunkel Story
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Heart Of A Coward, Unprocessed, Grief Ritual
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Kim Lowings
Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Rea River Roots: Dominic Crane Trio
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Aynsley Lister
Vonnies Blues Club, Cheltenham

Cate Cody Quinte
Pershore Jazz Club, Pershore Town Football Club

Thursday 28 November 2019

FCS: WSTR, Led By Lanterns, The Uma
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Interstate Express
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Howlin' Mat
Tank, Gloucester

Keith James in Concert: The Songs Of Leonard Cohen
The Courtyard, Hereford

Garry Allcock Trio
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Graham Parker
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Ellisha Green
The Oil Basin, Worcester

Do Martin
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Craig Seeney
Arches Bewdley, Bewdley

Black Tongue, Cutting Teeth, Heriot, Glass Kingdom
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Imperfect Storm
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Show Of Hands
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Adam Olds & The Barebacks
Babar Cafe, Hereford

Ed Conway
The Red Lion Amblecote, Stourbridge

The Jazz Apples
The Tavern, Cheltenham

Robin Boot'S Rockomedy
The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

Mike Dignam, Natalie Holmes, Heren Wolf
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Friday 29 November 2019

Whole Lotta Led
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Nick Harper, Chloe Mogg
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Jess Silk, Eliza May, Emelie Eleonore
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Memphis
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Snow Lobes
Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Selena Jerome
Tank, Gloucester

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds
Hunters Inn, Tewkesbury

Maz O'connor
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Sundown Jazz Trio, Jake Hughes
Firefly, Hereford

Dave Onions
Cock And Maggie, Bewdley

Brendon Obrian
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Worried Men
Café René, Gloucester

Walk Like A Man
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

The Total Who Show
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Elo Experience
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Zookeepers, Noir, Antier
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

54 Band
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Pipeline Promo: Lordless, The Jericho Racks, Hannah Law
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Foophonics
The White Lion, Leominster

Mister Wolf
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport On Severn

Faye Bagley
Red Lion, Evesham

Noasis
The Iron Road, Pershore

Midtown Groove
No. 3A, Bromsgrove

Behind The Bike Sheds
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Skrood
The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

The Quireboys, Borrowed Time, Haxan
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Sulphur
ALT, Cheltenham

Sarah Warren & Nick Lyndon
The Boathouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Two Ways Home
Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Labour Of Love
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Last Safe Moment, Up Shot, Everything Is Teeth
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

The Strays
The Bayshill, Cheltenham

Queen Tribute Night
Jury's Inn, Cheltenham

The Little Easy Band
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Spoilers, Crocodile God, Mixtape Saints
The Mitre, Stourbridge

Melvin Hancox
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Sarah Mcquaid
The Old Baptist Chapel, Tewkesbury

Mr Black
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

The Refelections
The Sociable Beer Co, Worcester

Slowjin Acoustic
The Royal, Cheltenham

Final 4
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Elvis Vs Meatloaf
The Crown Inn, Wychbold, Droitwich

Mister Wolf
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Vocal High Winter Warmer
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

The Ska Studs
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Ragtime Jug Orchestra
Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Bad Manners
The Sub Rooms, Stroud

Saturday 30 November 2019

Choir Factor
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Owen Martin
The Royal Oak, Gloucester

William The Conqueror
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Live Who
The Railway Inn, Studley

Blue 2 The Bone
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Black Rose
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Moretallica
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Polkadot Robot
The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Rickkie Lavel
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

XL5
The Chestnut, Worcester

Two Push Charlie
The Vaga, Hereford

Woo Town Hillbillies
Dorstone Village Hall, Hereford

Bowiesque
Swan Theatre, Worcester

The Elo Experience
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Trey Bailey
The Kingsford, Wolverley, Kidderminster

Helta Skelta
The Sportsman, Kidderminster

The Ultimate Amy Winehouse Tribute By Marina
The Red Man, Kidderminster

Jukebox Jems
The Loom And Shuttle, Kidderminster

Clare Teal And Her Big Mini Big Band
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Just Adam
The Marlbank Inn, Malvern

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

Until Nov 2nd - KAFF (Kidderminster Arts & Food Festival)
Various venues, Kidderminster.

Until 3rd Nov Meadow Arts present In Ruins, Witley Court

Until 3rd Nov Graham Wilson, Living the Dream, Artrix, Bromsgrove

Until 3rd Nov, Caged Arts Young Photography Exhibition
Worcester Arts Workshop

Until 4th Museum of the Moon, Gloucester Cathedral

Until 6th Nov Alan Mulholland - 'Mo's Military Miniatures Number 8

Until 6th Nov Judith Long - 'The Streets of Pershore
Pershore Number 8

Until 16th 'Number 8 Open Exhibition 2019', Pershore Number 8

1st Spooky Halloween Walk, St Peters Garden Centre, Worcester

2nd Worcester Alternative Artist Market, Heroes Bar Worcester

2nd - 28th Beth Quarmby illustration exhibition, Gloucester Guildhall

2nd Under The Moon Festival- KAFF - Kidderminster Town Hall

5 Nov - 5 Jan Kathleen Watson & Lynne Sawyer: Inspire By Nature -
Artrix, Bromsgrove

5 Nov Leonardo - The Works: Exhibition on Screen - Artrix, Bromsgrove

5th-30th Community Glass Exhibition Worcester Arts Workshop

6th Worcester Arts Partnership Informal Networking event,
The Old Rec, Worcester

7th Creative Crafters, Bridge House Stourbridge

7th until 18th Dec, Cut Fold Bind - 'So Many Books, So Little Time'
Pershore Number 8

7th until 7th Dec, Enfant Terrible, Division of Labour, Edgar St, Worcester

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Wizards Of Oz Ozzy Tribute, The Desperados UK
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Mffs + Support
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Fret Jesters
The Hollybush Inn, Alcester

Dale Von Minaker
Piccolos, Bewdley

Gene Jeanie & The Ls
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Mister Wolf
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Christians, Tom Davies
The Iron Road, Pershore

Queen Undercover - A Tribute To Queen
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Quo
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Spirit Of Elvis Starring Gordon Hendricks
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Bacchus
Woodland Cottage, Redditch

All Ears Avow, Kill The Ideal, Fawner, Batfish
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Rachel Roberts - Violinist
The Holly Bush, Redditch

Jay & Eli
The Green Dragon, Malvern

The Outlaw Orchestra, Trouble County
ALT, Cheltenham

Blackwater County
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Ultra 90S
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Tom Martin
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

The Missing Lynx
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Pete Gill & The Good Time Charlies
Cheltenham Park Hotel, Cheltenham

Pay The Piper
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Charlton Blues Kings
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Simon Dealey's Blue Haze
The Barrels, Hereford

Bye Bye Baby: Oh What A Night!
Evesham Arts Centre, Evedham

Wheel Sea
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Bratts
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Real Diamond
The Hampstall Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

Melvin Hancox Band
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Darren Knight
Dumbleton Village Club, Evesham

Steve Ferbrache
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Fletch'S Birthday Jammer
The Sub Rooms

7th- 27th St. Peter's Printmakers - 'Fresh off the Press', Pershore Number 8

7th-14th French Film Festival, The Courtyard Hereford

8th The Lost Films of World War 2. Palace Theatre Redditch

8th French Film Festival, Gloucester Guildhall

13th Nov Gareth Proskourine Barnett, Open Lecture Series,
Art House, Castle Street, Worcester

13th Halloween Life Drawing, Kingfisher, Redditch

14th Living from Art, working with a commercial gallery,
The Wilson, Cheltenham

14-17th FEAST Theatre Festival Malvern Cube

15th until 5th Jan 2020 Amalgamate 2. Exhibition, The Courtyard Hereford

16th Cult Classic - Easy Rider, The Courtyard Hereford

16th until 4th Jan. Crafted for You, Worcester City art Gallery & Museum

20th The Peanut Butter Falcon, Artrix, Bromsgrove

21st Christmas Lights Switch On, Worcester

21st-25th Cheltenham and Hereford Flamenco Festival

23/24th Ludlow Medieval Christmas Fayre

23rd Nov Malvern Arts Market & Christmas lights

27th Nov Sarah Taylor Silverwood , Open Lecture Series,
Art House, Castle Street, Worcester

27th Georgia O'Keefe Pop Up Painting Style Event Worcester Arts Workshop

28th Nov - 1st Dec Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre

28th A William Simmonds Exhibition Talk, Museum of Gloucester

29 Nov, 2,3,4 & 5 Dec The Aeronauts Artrix, Bromsgrove

29th Steam in Lights, Severn Valley Railway Kidderminster

30th Etsy Made Local, Worcester Porcelain Works

For Arts listings email: 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

1st Monday - Pub Quiz
Volunteer Inn, Hereford

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 Perdidio 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 - Open Mic
The Swan, Port St., Evesham, Worcester

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 Paulline 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 Gn

3rd Wed of Month - Celtic folk session
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

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 - Jazz 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 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 MARR'S BAR

NOV
DEC 2019



Friday November 1

Gaz Brookfield, B-Sydes, John Diment
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday November 2

Ultimate Leppard (Def Leppard trib)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday November 3

Hawklords
£16 in advance £19 on the door

Friday November 8

Ultimate Coldplay
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Saturday November 9

The Leylines
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Sunday November 10

The Wave Pictures, Skewwhiff
£13.50 in advance £16 on the door

Friday November 15

Dreadzone
£19 in advance

Saturday November 16

Bourbon Alley
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Thursday November 21

Matt Owens, Alex Lipinski
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday November 23

Green Haze (Green Day tribute)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Thursday November 28

FCS: WSTR, Led by Lanterns, The Uma
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Friday November 29

Nick Harper, Chloe Mogg
£15 in advance £18 in advance

Saturday November 30

Moretallica (Metallica Tribute)
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Thursday December 5

**Surprise Attacks: Blanck Mass, Violet
Grace & Frans Gender, Rosebud**
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Friday December 6

Very Santana (Santana tribute)
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Saturday December 7

V2A, Nightmare before Christmas party
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday December 13

Limehouse Lizzy (Thin Lizzy tribute)
£15 in advance £18 on the door

Saturday December 14

**Soul Stripper (AC/DC tribute),
Cult Fiction (Cult tribute)**
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday December 20

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

Wednesdays - Jamming night - FREE entry

www.marrsbar.co.uk
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