

SLAP

Issue 99

Feb '20

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SLAP

Feb 2020 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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

EDITORIAL

Mark Hogan - Editor
Kate Cox - Arts Editor

SUB EDITORS

Jasmin Griffin, Lottie Burgess, Emily Branson, Michael Bramhall

CONTRIBUTORS

Andy O'Hare
Will Munn
Geoffrey Head
Graham Munn
Stephan Work
Juliet Mootz
Mark Westcott
Jason Kernohan
Kate Ford
Dan Knight
Suz Winspear
Nicholas Burford
Eleanor Miles

DESIGN

Mark Hogan, Richard Nicholls

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Ant Robbins

ADVERTISING

Ruth Banks

Published by The Whole Hog
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@slapmaguk

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Dear Readers...

As we enter our 10th year, Slap mag would like to wish our supporters, contributors & readers, a very happy 2020.

SLAP is dedicated to promoting arts and music through monthly news, reviews and gig listings with 5,000 copies of our FREE mag distributed across Worcestershire and the surrounding counties.

As we move into a new decade, we want to encourage more people to get involved. From writers and distributors to sponsors and advertisers, we need your help to build on our current success. Sustainability has to be a focus for us as we move forward into what we hope will be our biggest and best year yet.

So - we are looking for your help!

Contributors: we're looking for new and dynamic writers to get involved with SLAP. Contributor's guidelines are available on the website, but all we ask is that word counts are manageable, and high-resolution images accompany submissions.

Distributors: we are always looking for new volunteers to help get SLAP into the public domain!

Advertising: A big thank you to all those who have supported us so far, and we are continuing to look for ongoing support from new advertisers.

SLAP is the go-to publication for Arts & Music in the West Midlands and offers an affordable way to reach over 5,000 potential clients across 3 counties and boasts web hits of 28,000 from all over the country. Contact ruth@slapmag.co.uk or call 01905 26660.

Alternatively, if you like what we do and fancy supporting our volunteer-driven publication with sponsorship, we have space on our website for your logo to say thank you.

Assist-Ed



Cover: **Bad Manners' Buster Bloodvessel**
by Jonathan Duckworth at the Sunscruption Rooms, Stroud.



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SLAP FEBRUARY 3

Cherry Cola

In the October 2017 issue of SLAP, we reported on the then 16-year-old **Lola Young's** set on the main stage at the **Stroud Fringe Festival** in front of close to a thousand people, describing it as *"an extraordinary, almost nerveless, display of the singer/songwriter's art"* and concluded with *"a sensational performance - who knows what's yet to come?"* We got our answer in early November, when a wonderful review of her debut single *'Six Feet Under'* from her new EP "Intro" appeared in The Guardian's Tracks of the Week feature, in the exalted company of **Dua Lipa, Sam Smith, La Roux** and **Skepta**, no less... And to continue her success story, she's just featured in a wide-ranging interview article as a breaking artist in the latest edition of the prestigious **Q Magazine**! Can we spot potential here at **SLAP**, or what? Congratulations Lola!

Through the gap in the curtains

HowTheLightGetsIn has announced its first music acts for the world's largest philosophy and music festival in Hay from May 22 to 25 - including Ivor Novello winner **Nitin Sawhney**, The Correspondents and singer/cellist **Ayanna Witter-Johnson** - more at howthelightgetsin.org/hay

Doctor Who?

Punk poet 'Doctor' **John Cooper-Clarke** whose works are included on the current school' national curriculum will be appearing at **Hereford's Shire Hall** as part of his *'Luckiest Guy Alive'* tour on Monday 30 March - bringing his own take on contemporary culture and his work with bands like the Arctic Monkeys - <http://johncooperclarke.com/gigs>

Do androids dream of electric guitars?

Derbyshire songwriter **Sam Genders** has said that much of the music we hear in the future may be written and performed by computers rather than humans. His new folk single *'Is This Real'* was written with the help of AI - two programs called Alysia and Mabel - who initially produced tunes 'at nursery level' but which learned to produce more complex songs with a 'human warmth'. A **Musicians' Union** spokesman expressed concerns but conceded that it could be an antidote to writers' block - withalysia.com

Fun Lovin' Criminals Mello out

Mello Festival has announced a 'stunning line up' for this year's event at Hanley Castle including Steeleye Span, Fairport Convention, Odyssey, Hazel O'Connor and Fun Loving Criminals - plus plenty of local Worcestershire bands - we like that! Mello runs from 22-24 May - www.mellofestival.co.uk

Tribute

Plenty of tributes have been paid to **St Paul's Hostel Creative Group** member **Pete Middleton** who died recently - Pete was also a fixture of the local canal group and a talented poet - described by **Creating Links** **Geraldine Lowman** as a *'Renaissance man'* - a sad loss...

Artrix assemble ensemble

Artrix Theatre in Bromsgrove has announced its programme for the spring and we've noticed that besides appearances from **Ruby Turner** and **Fairport Convention** in February, **Mark Morriss (Bluetones)**, **Chris Helme (Seahorses)** and **Nigel Clarke (Dodgy)** will be playing on Saturday 14 March - one for the diary we feel - artrix.co.uk

4 SLAP FEBRUARY

Campione

A big cheer to self-confessed local music buff **Giancarlo Piccaro** who won the 'Champions League' version of Ken Bruce's Popmaster quiz on the BBC Radio 2 show just before Xmas by a huge margin - Gian works at the **Swan Theatre** in Worcester but is also a regular gig-goer at many local events!

Everything must go

It's still not sure whether the Worcester branch of **HMV** will be closing at the end of January as we went to press due to 'extortionate business rates' - the closure has been announced but whether there's a deal in place to save it - we'll let you know...

UB39

There'll be a racing/music day at Worcester's **Pitchcroft** on Saturday 13 June featuring the current version of **UB40** (minus **Ali Campbell**) - following a similar event in 2015 when **James** were the headliners - more info at Ticketmaster

Global Warmplay

Mixed reactions to the news that Coldplay are to put a hold on touring because of the environmental damage that ensues - but other international outfits like **Massive Attack**, **Radiohead**, **Neil Young** and **Pearl Jam** are also reviewing the way they tour the globe after 'experts' called **The Police** the 'dirtiest band in the world' despite Mr Sting's efforts to save the rainforests. Other acts such as **Billie Eilish** and **The 1975** are looking to reduce their own carbon footprint while festivals such as **Glastonbury** and **Reading/Leeds** have aimed to go plastic-free within two years - it's a start...

Brazil nut

The head of Brazil's **National Art Foundation** has stated that 'rock music leads to abortions' - explaining that music leads to drugs and then sex. **Dante Mantovani** also claimed that **John Lennon** had made a pact with the devil and that **Elvis Presley's** dance moves induce 'certain behaviours' - we'll keep you posted...

48 gigs in 48 hours

The **Upton48** team is excited to announce two new festivals in March and October, bookending Upton-upon-Severn's busy spring and summer seasons. The first new festival, **'Spring Fling'**, will be held between the 13th and 15th March 2020. The team believes these festivals will be a fantastic opportunity to showcase the idyllic town and its local businesses. These festivals are planned to become a regular feature for Upton, should the project's first year be a success.

The name **'Upton48'** comes from the project's slogan, *'48 gigs in 48 hours'*. The 48 bands heading to Upton will cover a wide variety of genres, from solo acoustic acts to five-piece bands. The gigs will be spread across ten great venues, with free entry to all guests. Further information, including a full list of Upton48's venues, is available at www.upton48.co.uk.

Wanted! Beer Fest Bands

Worcester Beer Festival is on 13th 14th 15th August 2020 and this year they're throwing the stage on Thursday evening open to bands. They have 4 x 45mins slots, which is a great opportunity to play on big stage with a great sound system. Each band gets in free, +1 crew, plus 8 pints per band. Send an email marked 'Thursday bands' to contact@worcesterbeerfest.org.uk and

Herefordshire Life Through A Lens: Derek Evans - Studio Photographs

The Courtyard, Hereford. Friday 21 Feb-Saturday 21 Mar

Evans created a visual chronicle of life across the county, from the late 1940s onwards. **The Herefordshire Life Through a Lens** project is bringing many of the images from his vast archive of photographs and negatives to light again thanks to the work of **Catcher Media** and **Herefordshire Council's Archive and Library Service**. In this new exhibition, the archive studio images will be displayed alongside contemporary photographs which reflect some of the themes in the collection including hop picking, the MayFair and countless other county events. **Derek Evans** worked throughout Fleet Street's heyday, creating a host of award-winning shots. His professional achievements were rewarded with a fellowship of the Royal **Photographic Society**.

herefordshirelifethroughalens.org.uk



Hands on at Half Term Lighting Workshop The Swan Theatre | Wed 19th Feb

For school years: 7-9: 10am - 12 noon & 10-13: 2pm - 4pm

Do you love everything that goes on behind the scenes? Would you like to learn more?



In this two-hour course come and have a go, starting with a tour of backstage and the lighting box. Get hands on rigging and focusing lights, have a go at operating the desk, learn what it's like to stage manage a show and how to work on cans, and set up and test the sound and microphones!

It's not always about who wants to be in the spotlight; who's behind the spotlight is just as important too!

Limited spaces, book now to avoid disappointment! Call the Box Office on 01905 611427 to book your space.

Tickets £15 Box Office: 01905 611427 www.worcesterlive.co.uk

The Arches Worcester Festivals - Artist Call Out

The Disruptors - We are seeking an experienced & creative movement director / artist to take a creative lead on this exciting project which forms part of the **Arches Worcester Festivals**. www.thearchesworcesterevents.co.uk

The Disruptors will be a community performance group made up of Worcestershire based volunteer performers. They will appear across the city on days leading up to the festivals and including days where we have activity taking place during our various festivals between Summer 2020 and January 2022. The Disruptors are a visual signpost for audiences that something is going to happen in the coming days ahead. They may work in small groups of 2's or 3's or in larger groups according to the need. They will be non- verbal, they will perform in silence. They Disruptors will be clearly identified by their costume (all Disruptors will be dressed the same as each other).

Opportunity - We are seeking to commission a movement director / artist to work with Festivals Director **David Edmunds** to work with the Disruptors (around 50 people in total) to develop a number of movement phrases / interactions which they can then use / perform when out in the public realm. One potential creative narrative to be explored is that the Disruptors are building towards something that will take place in our final year of this project (2022). Have they been searching the city for something? Are they laying plans for something? There is significant potential to develop this theme over the life span of the Arches Worcester project.

We are seeking expressions of interests from outdoor arts artists who have experience of working with volunteer groups within the public realm and have a strong movement background.

the
arches
Festivals

We envisage the work with the group will be undertaken in Worcester during May / June 2020 (dates to be agreed with successful applicant) and the first performances by the Disruptors will be during our Summer festival "Disrupting The Norm" the week of the 6th July 2020.

Please submit your proposal to Festivals Director David Edmunds d.edmunds@severnarts.org.uk by Monday February 24th 9:00am. Your proposal should include an outline of how you would approach the project and include examples (can include video links) to your previous work on similar recent projects.

After the closing date those artists whose proposals excite us will be invited to Worcester to meet with the festivals team and discuss their ideas further. We aim to have appointed somebody by early March 2020.

Fee - £2,000 plus agreed expenses

For an informal conversation about the project please contact David Edmunds, Festivals Director, to arrange to speak or you can email David at d.edmunds@severnarts.org.uk

For further information on the Arches Worcester project please visit www.thearchesworcester.co.uk



Clik Clik is still in hibernation! Look out for a reappearance in the spring.

Explore your wild side!

The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour is bringing two nights of thrilling adventure films to **Forum Theatre**, Malvern on 28 & 29 February.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival features a collection of the world's best adventure films, starring intrepid explorers on wild expeditions in remote corners of the world. Audiences can expect gripping action, soulful journeys and mind-blowing cinematography – all from the comfort of a cinema seat.

For more information and to book tickets, see banff-uk.com



Photo: Mark Sedon

Georgians: the Pride and the Prejudice

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum is excited to present a new exhibition exploring the fact and fiction behind one of the most fascinating and tumultuous periods of British history. **Georgians: the Pride and the Prejudice** is designed to take you on a Grand Tour of Regency Worcester, taking in the beautiful landscapes, exquisite interiors and pass-times of the Bennetts and Darcy's of the city, emerging into the wider world to see at what cost the pursuit of pleasure and elegance.

The exhibition includes a rarely seen first edition of *Pride and Prejudice* which will be displayed

alongside a wealth of art and artefacts from the museum's own collections including works by **John Downman**, one of the most popular watercolour portraitists of the late 18th century, and the renowned pastelists **John Russell**, as well as Georgian costume, a rare Erard harp and a stunning Sedan chair.

For a more in-depth look at the exhibition and to discover some of the stories behind the objects on display join a Curators Tour on 16th March, 11.30am. No booking needed. £3 per person.

The exhibition runs until 28th March. Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery. www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk



Worcester Paint Festival

There will be a fresh new festival appearing this autumn in Worcester, featuring renowned and emerging street/graffiti artists, celebrating the scene's vibrant history and culture. If you are interested in sponsoring the event, or own a wall you would like to see painted please get in touch on :

worcesterpaintfestival@gmail.com



Dice at Cheltenham Paint Festival

The 80s Toybox for 30 Somethings

Pershore Number has an exhibition with a difference... From Mr T to Muppet Babies - take a trip down memory lane with this exhibition of toys from the 80s curated by **Rob Brown**.

Rob will be joining us in The Foyer on Monday 3 February, 8pm to talk about his exhibition and the history of the toys on display. Admission free. Thursday 30 January - Wednesday 11 March



Photography Club

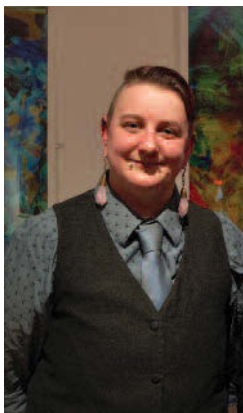
Leominster Photographic Club will be exhibiting at Leominster Tourist Information Centre this month. They meet every other Thursday evening at **Leominster Community Centre** and all are welcome to join! info@leominster-photoclub.co.uk 1st until 27th February



Contemplation © Jan Reynolds

Phoenix Nova: Reflections.

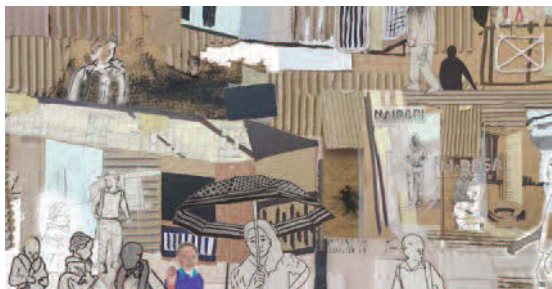
An exhibition in celebration of **LGBT+ History Month - Phoenix Nova** is a Worcester based Visual Artist who achieved a BA (HONS) in Art & Design and an MA in Creative Media both at the University of Worcester. They identify as Trans Non-Binary, and use They/Them pronouns. Their work revolves around identity – particularly that of themselves. Their current area of interest is self portraiture and reflection on their past, working with Drawing, Painting and Photography usually within a mixed media approach. Worcester Arts Workshop. 3 February – 1 March



Rivers of the World'

A wonderful exhibition of artwork is showcasing in Pershore created by young people in Worcestershire and their partner schools in Nairobi, Kenya, in collaboration with professional artists. They have all been part of an international arts programme delivered by **Thames Festival Trust** in partnership with the British Council. www.riversoftheworld.org

Pershore Number 8. Thursday 6 - Wednesday 26 February
www.number8.org



Edgar Street Gallery/Division of Labour

A fantastic new gallery space opened last year in Worcester. **The Edgar Street gallery** in partnership with **Division of Labour** is curating some thought provoking contemporary art in this small but tall terraced house near King's School. The recent street art show included prints by **Banksy, Hush & Shepard Fairey** and now two new exhibitions showcase on 20th Feb. **'Eden'** and **'Microplastics Rain Down From the Sky'** mark the beginning of a programme of shows, workshops and talks exploring climate change and its effects on the environment and our mental health. It's an exciting time for the arts in Worcester!



pittstudio.com

Dancefest-Street Dance, Youth Movement & a gift...

Dancefest's spring term has started but there's still time to join. They have over 35 classes a week in Worcestershire and Herefordshire for all ages for you to go along and try!



Clare Wood

They're also getting excited about their Street Dance workshops with **The Jestar** next month. On Sunday 9 February, he'll be leading workshops on the rudiments of Popping, Locking and Breaking in workshops for children, young people and adults. They take place at Dancefest's base at **The Angel Centre** in Worcester. There's a workshop for 6-11s at 10-10.45am for £4 (parents can join in for free if they like!), 12-17s at 11am-12pm, which costs £5, and a session for adults at 12-1pm for £6.

Also coming up this term is Youth Movement on Sunday 1 March at 7pm at **Artrix** in Bromsgrove, when **Dancefest** presents an evening of powerful and innovative dance performances showing the skill, creativity and dynamism of dancers from West Midlands based youth companies. Taking part this year are **ACE Youth, Flexus Dance Collective, Man Made Youth Company, Translucent Youth Dance Company, 2Faced Youth** and **Dancefest's Elevate and Accelerate**. Youth Movement is a must see for young people studying dance, a chance to watch and be inspired by their peers.

And it's Dancefest's 30th anniversary this year so look out for all sorts of dance projects and events in Worcester and beyond to celebrate – starting with a playlist of music for warm ups gathered from their dance teachers, that you'll find on their homepage at dancefest.co.uk, that they hope inspires you and makes you smile. Look out for more playlists and gifts later in the year!

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

Banksy, Punk, Print & Politics - street art in the warm

There is something incredibly simple yet infinitely considered at the new gallery in Worcester city - the **Edgar Street** space.

This isn't a white cube gallery, it's a house, empty but for its art, carpeted, fireplaces, mantle pieces, rooms to wander, time to think, to get lost in images without pressure or judgement.

This may seem an odd statement but it should act as an open invitation to all those who are intimidated by the concept of contemporary art, who are put off by the sound of shoes on hollow floors and question at what distance a work should be viewed, who maybe look in confusion at an empty shopping trolley and wonder why...? At **Edgar Street** you can blend with the appreciators and fans and the simply intrigued, as entry is free there is no financial risk with visiting, although for those looking to add to their collections or perhaps wanting to own something truly special, prices are often available upon request.



like marmite or sprouts; I'm a fan and the opportunity to see his work up close, in my local City is an extraordinary event. For me, he represents the multiple layers and talents of a genius....he's a thinker, observer, strategist, political activist, a compassionate conveyor of human nature and our impact on each other and our environment. Add his artistic techniques, his ability to communicate ideas polymathically within his work, add excellent musician into the equation and he has ticked just about every box to impress me, oh, and create truly meaningful art.

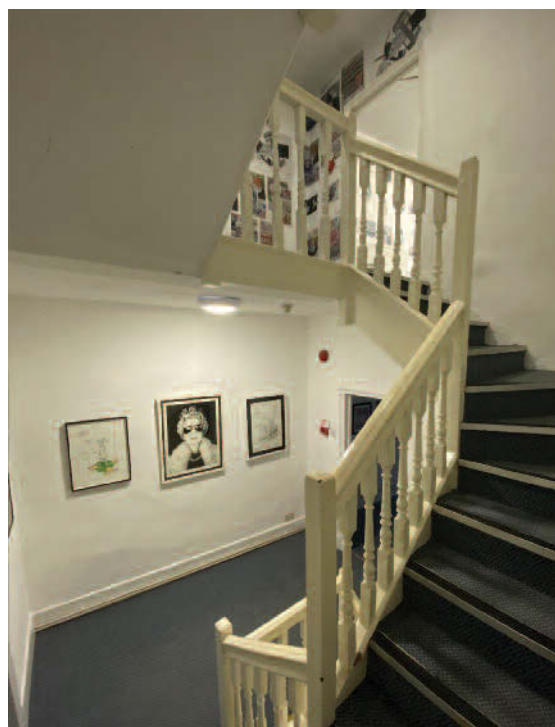
It does seem slightly odd to view his work behind glass, a sterile environment distant from his precision planned installation activity, disguised in high vis jackets, as he and his accomplices work their locations from the back of a white van. Alongside nineteen of Banksy's works are pieces by **Pure Evil**, **A Lad insane** (Bowie) and **Pandas Rock**. **Jaime Reid** of Sex Pistols *Anarchy in the UK* Album cover fame, is represented with his *God Save the Yobs*, collage and anarchism cleanly presented, rebellion packaged and ready to hang. **Dolk**, **D-Face** and **Mr Brainwash** are just a few of this carefully curated punk and politics driven show.

On the top floor **Division of Labour** presented 'Election Special'. You entered a media mash of doodled newspapers, taped to the walls. Artists **Peter Kenyard**, musician **Lowkey** and Facebook familiar **Mark McGowan** (the Artist Taxi Drive), aim to reintroduce some political balance to the bitter extremism, of pre-election demagoguery and propaganda. Trump turns nuclear submarine in photo montage form and Boris wears a painted clown face. Noam Chomsky speaks with desperate gravity of profit and power as rapper **Lowkey** brings their generations together, in a shared hope and vision, merging soundbites with street slang. This exhibition provided an engaging selection of works, addressing global issues and street corner culture.

The gallery is informal, open to all and it's a warm and inspirational escape from Worcester's winter streets. **'Eden'**, and **'Microplastics Rain Down from the Sky'** are two new exhibitions focussing on environmental and health issues. They open on the 20th February.

Edgar Street Gallery/Division of Labour, 4 Edgar Street, Worcester, WR1 2LR. Contact for viewing times and information: Nat@divisionoflabour.co.uk

By Juliet Mootz



I was excited, slightly in disbelief I confess, that Worcester's latest Contemporary Art Gallery had emptied the previous *Tracey Emin* exhibition to fill its rooms with prints of notable street art, curated by **John Quarendon**, and included works by one of our most controversial. **Banksy** often triggers one of two reactions,

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

Love the Arbo! Saturday 15th Feb 2020 - 6-8pm

Ordinary people doing something extraordinary! The community in Worcester's Arboretum district will be doing just that this month by creating an outdoor gallery in their front windows - "Love The Arbo" is a free enchanted trail of light for all to explore!



Last February, the **Arboretum Residents Association** hosted their first event, asking residents to create something magical in their windows. The result was amazing - loads of interesting creations and so many people walking the streets of the Arboretum area - it truly was the community event they had hoped for, and much more.

So on Saturday 15th February, **Love The Arbo** will be back! The **ARA** are expecting many more houses to take part this time round and want to make this an annual event, giving it's community something exciting to take part in. And offering the rest of the city (and visitors) a sparkling evening out in the dreary winter months.

Bob Whitelaw, Arboretum Residents Association Chairman said - "There's a real buzz around the Arboretum as residents had such fun last year. Therefore we're expecting even more houses to be lit and people to attend from all over the city and beyond. What better way to brighten up our lives this time of year by creating something wonderful together. We definitely love the Arbo!"

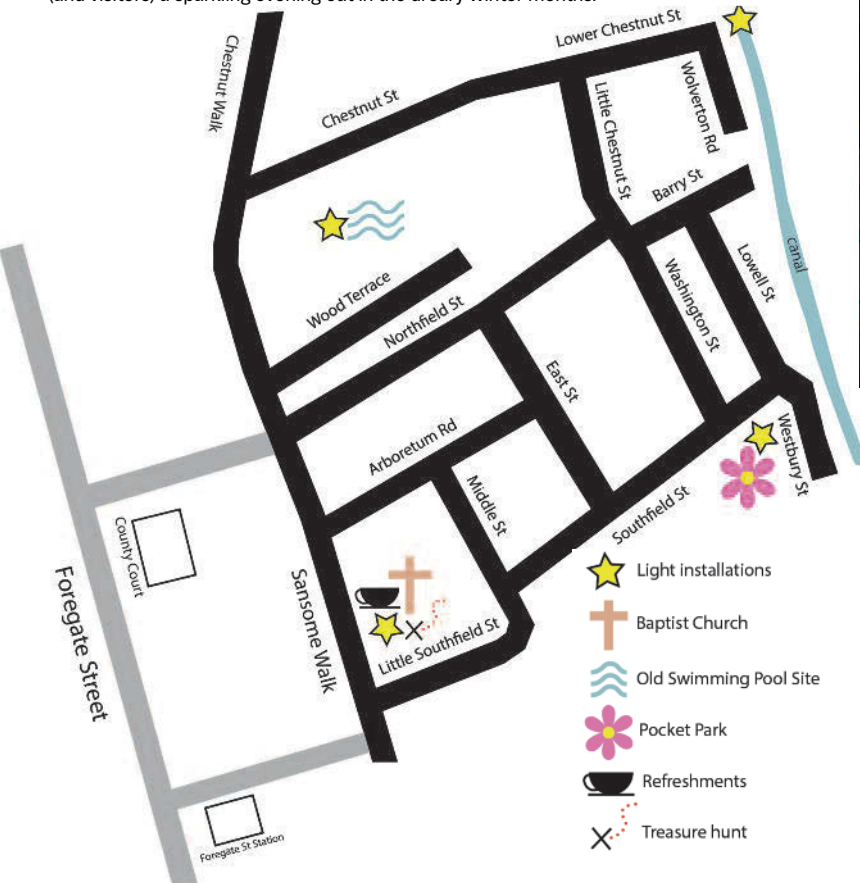
Alongside the windows being lit up, Worcester artist and Arboretum resident **Kate Brookes** will be making three large installations - one will be in the canal itself. You can also expect to see other creative happenings during the event, from 6pm til 8pm.



If you are a resident and would like to take part, please look out for a newsletter through your door soon and pop it in your window so the **ARA** can gage numbers of participants. Or just get involved and light up on the 15th!

The Arboretum looks forward to seeing you and hope you will come along and enjoy this community collaboration. You can grab a map from key points in the area, or use this one for reference. There will be windows lit up on most of the streets and several larger scale installations, so come and explore!

For more info please email : lovethearbo@gmail.com or search for Love the Arbo on Facebook.



Walk around the Arboretum to see the illuminated artworks in residents windows



Suz Winspear



The Christmas break is over, and Slap Mag has returned to a world of uncertainty. I think we're all still a bit stunned by the result of the general election, and worried about the consequences. We don't know yet how the likelihood of our leaving the European Union will affect artists and performers, although I've heard a lot of

anxious comments from musicians who have previously been able to do gigs and sell merchandise in the rest of Europe and may lose these opportunities, and it looks as though it will become harder for musicians from the continent (or those from further afield who have visited us as part of a European tour) to perform in the UK. But as yet we aren't certain, and in the meantime all we can do as writers, musicians and artists is to bear witness. Future historians will wonder just what it felt like to live here and now in this complicated moment of history - and we are the ones who can tell them. Whatever happens, we still have our art, and we can tell future generations of our thoughts, our experiences, our hopes, how we relate to one another and how we get through these difficult times. For us, the real work begins now.

Meanwhile, there are plenty of Spoken Word events going on in Worcestershire throughout February -

Thursday 6th February - Bohemian Voices - at the **Worcester Arts Workshop** This new monthly event began last year and has already built up quite a following - see article below for more details...

Thursday 6th February - Bewdley Fringe Spoken Word - at **The Retreat Bar**, Load Street, Bewdley. With special guest The Humdrum Express - post-punk observational cynicism with fantastic lyrics - not to be missed! 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.

Up And Coming Comedy, Poetry and Music Talent, With Bohemian Voices

Bohemian Voices returns to **Worcester Arts Workshop** on Thursday 6 Feb 8.30pm - 10.30pm for their first event of 2020, with another evening of top quality Live Music, Comedy and Poetry.

The line up for the evening includes comedy from **Dean Homer** and **John Reed**, poetry from **Bobby J. Dowdeswell** and **Tony Beckingham**, music from Hip-Hop artist **Loose Change** and musical duo **Fragile Hearts**, plus storyteller **Sharon Carr**.

Bohemian Voices is hosted by **Steve Soden**, who devised the format and ran the show for a number of years in London, attracting big name acts as they were starting out, such as Jimmy Carr, Michael McIntyre, Hal Cruttenden, Shappi Khorsandi, Rob Dearing, Pete Doherty and The Libertine.

Bohemian Voices, taking place on the first Thursday of the month, is a great chance to spot the next big talent whilst they are performing in the intimate setting of **The Vaults at Worcester Arts Workshop**.

Thursday 13th February - SpeakEasy - at **Paradiddles**, 61/61a Sidbury WR1 3HU Eclectic poetry, spoken word, randomness, and occasional music - plus the famous raffle! Our Featured Performer for February is Derek Dohren - and if you've ever travelled anywhere on a bus, you'll want to hear him! £3 admission, 7.30pm.

Thursday 13th February - Poetry and Prose Workshop - on a canal boat! Yes, a spoken word workshop with a difference. It's on board the Narrow boat The Vic Smallshire at the Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust, 501 Birmingham New Road, Dudley DY1 2SB (Yes, I know Dudley isn't in Worcestershire now - but it was when the canals were built!) Former Worcestershire Poet Laureate Heather Wastie will be running a morning of creative writing culminating in a sharing of work. 10am - 1pm. Bookings by email at ldigcanals@alarumtheatre.co.uk

Saturday 15th February - Churches Conservation Trust Open Day at St Martin in the Cornmarket Focussing on the current conservation work at nearby St Swithun's and its future as an arts and performance venue, the day will include family activities and entertainment, including music and spoken word. Free entry. 11am-2pm.

Thursday 20th February Dear Listener - She Grrrows Tour Special This regular early evening event of eclectic poetry and spoken word plays host this month to She Grrrows - a feminist arts organisation putting the spotlight onto female poets, organised by **Carmina Masoliver**, with poets **Romalyn Ante** and **Nafeesa Hamid**. £3 admission. 6.30 - 8.30pm.

Tuesday 25th February - 42 - at Drummonds Bar, behind the Swan with Two Nicks NOTE THE NEW NIGHT OF THE MONTH! After over eight years on the final Wednesday, 42 has now moved to the LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH! Apart from that, everything at 42 is as usual - Life, the Universe and Everything - prose and poetry - Worcester's alternative genre spoken word night featuring 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 '**Reader, I Murdered Him**' - some pieces will be on theme, but it isn't essential! 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.

Tickets for the two hour show are just £5 each or £2.50 for students and are available to purchase at the door.

If any aspiring performers would like to be considered for future shows please email info@stevesoden.biz.



February at Worcester Arts Workshop

The line-up for this month's events at **Worcester Arts Workshop** includes live music, film and one-off workshops plus loads more.

On 7 and 21 February, students from **Kidderminster College** return with two new music events. **Simon Deeley's Blue Haze**



perform rhythm-packed, in-the-groove, jazz-fusion tracks from their new album on 25 February, plus WAW Live Lounge on 29 February, featuring sets from **Ryan Sparrow**, **Hannah Law** and **Hannah Mac**.

Before I Die Worcestershire - a discussion about life and death and how we can make the very best of both on 13 February.

Steve Wilson returns with Quiz Night on 27 February, promising a fun and enjoyable night of general knowledge and general nonsense.



WAW, along with WFI present cult classic films this month including a Valentine's Day screening of **Dirty Dancing** (plus Prosecco and Salsa Dancing!).

We celebrate **LGBT+ History Month** with a screening of **Priscilla Queen of the Desert** on 21 February and a visual arts exhibition, **Reflections** by **Phoenix Nova**.

During February Half Term holiday families can enjoy cinema, theatre and visual arts with a screening of Disney's **The Lion King** (1994) on 18 February and family puppet theatre with **Eggs On Legs** on 20 February. Plus, art and pottery clubs for young people, **Pottery Throwing & Relief** on 17 & 18 February, **Printmaking** on 19 February, **Figure Sculpting** 20 & 21 February and **Shadow Puppets** on 21 February.

One-off workshops for adults during February include a Valentine's Day **Fused Glass** workshop on 6 February, **Spring Vase** workshop on 14 February and brand new weekly **Vinaya Yoga** classes every Wednesday morning.

For istings or to book visit www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

WORDS

Artrix, Tuesday, February 25th



WORDS has been bringing the best of the spoken and written word to Bromsgrove for over forty years, is delighted to welcome **Ann Cleaves** to **Artrix**.

Ann is the author of two of the most popular crime series on television, "Shetland" and "Vera", and she will talk about her books and adaptations and about her latest best seller, "The Long Call", the first book in a Devon based series, now also in development for

television with **Silverprint Pictures**.

The evening starts at 7.30.p.m. and tickets are available from the Artrix Box Office – 01527-577330 / www.artrix.co.uk - or via the **WORDS** website – www.bromsgrovewords.com.



Creative Writing Retreat

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Renowned Artists And Sculptors Showcase Work At Garden Art Exhibition

Renowned artists and sculptors from across the country are preparing to showcase their work at a **Garden Art Exhibition** in Worcestershire. **Holloways**, in Suckley, is hosting the week-long exhibition in aid of the **Worcestershire Community Foundation**.

Artists including **Antony Bridge** - the **National Trust's Artist in Residence at Croome** - wildlife printmaker **Shelly Perkins** and still life painter **Nicola Currie** will be joining RHS gold medal-winning sculptor **Christine Charlesworth** and Herefordshire artist blacksmith **Jon Cliff** at the show next month.

They are among 25 well-known names heading to contemporary country living retailer **Holloways** for the exhibition, which runs from February 7-13.

Also showcasing their work are Worcestershire exhibitors **Paul Burton**, who creates Earthlight sculptures inspired by his career in the mining industry; landscaper **Peter Fletcher**, who makes exquisite fire spheres; university art lecture **Heather Farmer**, who creates striking canvases of wildflower meadows and painter **Melanie Williams**. Shropshire printmaker **Julia Timmins** will also be exhibiting, along with landscape artist **Chris Williams**, **Mary Brittain**, who paints bold and colourful canvases of gardens, and Welsh landscape painter **David Thompson**. Artwork in oils, watercolours and dazzling gold leaf will sit alongside intricate giclee prints and bronzes, modern sculpture, garden ornaments and metal art.

Edward Holloway, **High Sheriff of Worcestershire**, has run **Holloways** for more than 30 years with his wife Diana. He also runs garden statuary business **Holloways Garden Antiques and Ornaments**.



He said: "We're absolutely delighted to be hosting the first **Garden Art Exhibition**, in aid of **WCF**."

"We've had an incredible response from artists and sculptors keen to come, and the breadth and quality of work is exceptional."

"From **RHS Chelsea** gold medal-winning sculptors to established artists with work in collections all around the world, we've handpicked every piece. Visitors to the exhibition are in for a huge treat and we're extremely pleased to be raising money for **WCF**."

For every sale, artists will donate a percentage to **WCF**, which distributes money on behalf of the **High Sheriff's Fund** to charities working with disadvantaged people across Worcestershire.

A **Meet The Artists** programme is planned throughout the week, where art-lovers can meet the exhibitors and talk about their work.

Pieces range from £50 to £5,000. Monday to Saturday, 9am-5pm, and 11am-4pm on Sunday.

Holloways' Glasshouse cafe will be open for the duration of the exhibition, serving locally-sourced, seasonal menus for breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea.

For a full list and biographies of exhibiting artists and their work, visit www.holloways.co.uk



Naked Craft Project

Ross on Wye glass artist **Nina Casson McGarva** has just returned from a residency in Japan where she was participating in the '**Naked Craft Project**' artist exchange program, promoting collaborations between British and Japanese glass artists.

Nina sculpts detailed wax models, casts them as flat panels and then, clad head to toe in protective gear reaches into the kiln while it is at peak temperature, using gloves to twist and pull the glass into a variety of fluid and dynamic shapes.

Yoshida San studied in the UK and has long been a member of the **Contemporary Glass Society**, created the **Naked Craft Project** where the shortlisted artists run workshops, create new work, network with other artists based in Kobe and experience life in Japan.



During her stay Nina ran workshops based on her wax modelling techniques. She also took part in a collaboration between a Shin Nagata tea shop, a local sweets supplier **Patisserie Roman** and several local glass studios. Attendees were invited to taste the desserts and teas which were presented on glass plates and bowls made by Nina and the other artists.

The residency culminated in an exhibition visited by 500 people during which a selection of Nina's work was exhibited alongside the sculptures made by the adults and children who attended the workshops. **The Naked Craft Project** is planned to run again in 2020. Look up the **Naked Craft Project** Facebook page for more information.



Festival crowds exceed expectations

Thousands of people came to take part in Worcester's first ever **Light Night** last night, far exceeding the expectations of the Festival organiser **Severn Arts**.



For one-night Worcester's High Street and Cathedral Square were transformed into a magical, illuminated stage set brought to life with the procession and performances by **Cirque Bijou's Umbrella Project** and **Spark! Worldbeaters** LED drummers, the stunning selection of interactive light installations and walk about artists - **Lampshade Ladies (Kitsch n Sync)** and **TV Heads**.

Added to this, responsive work by recent graduate **Thomas Brown** and **University of Worcester Creative Media** students were on show in Crowngate and the University's Art House.

Amongst the crowds were lots of locals as well as visitors from further afield, all taking in the Festival and making the most of the evening filling up the many bars and restaurants available as well. The see-saws recorded an amazing 34,455 cycles (each cycle is 1 up and 1 down bounce)!



David Edmunds, Festival Director, Severn Arts said: "I am so thrilled with the response and particularly with the number of people interacting and engaging with the Festival. Everyone has worked so hard to pull it together and it's brilliant to see the appetite from the public for this kind of event. I'm excited for what we have to come. I think the fantastic local reaction is a real endorsement for our Festivals going forward."

Festival visitor and Worcester resident **Jo Oxholm** said: "It was fantastic to see the centre of Worcester buzzing with activity and anticipation on a dark January evening. We loved visiting the different installations and really enjoyed the ambient sounds and mellow feel of Halo before the carnival atmosphere of the Spark! Drummers and the beautiful umbrellas lit up the High Street. A great way to start 2020."

Peter Knott, Area Director for Arts Council England said: "This an exciting and transformative time for Worcester, as the Cultural Development fund enables The Arches project to get



underway. As the first of four new festivals in the city this year, **Light Night Worcester** was a wonderful example of how culture and creativity can bring visitors, residents and communities together, and we're proud to support this series of colourful and exciting projects."



Light Night Worcester is the first of **The Arches** four new festivals taking place in Worcester's city centre in 2020. **Atmosphere** is the second, taking place on Saturday 25 April, **Disrupting the Norm** the third, taking place from 6 – 11 July and Worcester's **International Story Festival** is the fourth, which will take place in October. For more information visit <https://thearchesworcesterevents.co.uk>

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John Cooper Clarke

Subscription Rooms, Stroud | 5th Dec

The two old friends settled in behind me, both cradling a prerequisite beer and a necessary short: *"This is an amazing room - I've seen some great gigs in here over the years - I've really been looking forward to tonight."* So had I and metaphorically I was laid back in my favourite armchair with a 15 year old whisky...

Like a well-seasoned malt - aging well and offering a warm glow - **Mike Garry** poured himself on to the stage. Garry effortlessly corrupts our tired and lazy typesetting of librarians with his Mancunian drawl and worldly poetry. At times our poet is genuinely lost in his delivery, savouring the moment and his words. As he shared his paean to his old primary school teacher *"Miss McCoombe"*, my involuntary tears mirrored the sentiment and the performance and I'm sure I was not alone.

Am I alone in asking how has **John Cooper Clarke** achieved such longevity? The odds were stacked against him but what a biography: addictive as any series Netflix injected in to your front room. Clarke opened up with his own big question: *"What is occasional furniture?"* Our **Salford Bard** never shies away from the big subjects. The night, his night, our night of poetry was peppered with subjects as diverse as Weddings, twats and street life, never afraid to salt his performance with jokes, japes and jocular asides, with some very close to the punch-skinned-knuckle. The crack about bed-blockers (patients of a certain age), taking up the bed space of more "worthy" patients was head back, laugh out loud *funny*;

before clasping your self-conscious hand over your mouth... "we need the bed for a 58 year old male, with 8 kids, in need of gender realignment surgery!" Crikey.

Blimey, if you think about it JC has been trending on the boards for a long time and his experience shines through like a stanza that captures a rare moment. (When Clarke first started performing he had no phone so people had to phone his Mum and she would contact him with any potential work.) His stock-in-trade: words. Words that he knowingly chisels, whittles away at, words that he carves into ornate confections; verses of words that he throws in to pyramids of patter; lyrics that are stapled and bent out of shape, folded over and reimagined for our listening pleasure. The audience on this night, like every night, listened with the intensity of a child listening out for sleigh-bells on Christmas Eve.

As the evening progressed I kept coming back to the big question: what is occasional furniture?

Occasionally, Clarky would take a step back from the microphone for a breather but his rapid delivery, reminiscent of a broadcaster capturing the final moments of a horse race, meant the whole show was delivered at an impressive rate. For his older poems he was able to rely on muscle memory, although, the newer material was read from his latest anthology. Age and time have an impact on us all. All the while a constant and I mean constant barrage of humour linked each poetic revelation. With many observations armed with self-deprecating humour aimed self consciously at himself - *"Hey Clarky get back on the drugs you fat bastard!"* Honestly, if he stood side on behind the mic

you would only see his nose.

Please, don't turn your nose up at the punchline, occasional furniture? *"A periodic table!"* You had to have been there, no really, you should have been there. Along with, once again, a filled to near capacity audience at the **Sub-Rooms**; you would have left with something to talk about for the rest of the month; much like the two old friends behind me chattering animatedly after the gig like excited kids, at 5am on Christmas morning.

nicholas.burford@virgin.net

Words: *Nicholas David Burford*

Photography: *Johnathan Duckworth*

Concert for Australia West Malvern Social Club 18th Jan

Let's be fair, besides the usual seasonal celebrations it's not been a great couple of months since your last dosage of SLAP - with an uncertain future ahead now that we've got our own lying buffoon in charge of a divided nation. But on top of that attendances at local gigs have been slightly disappointing over the post-festive period as folks realise that the cost of seeking oblivion from the horrors to come has left the piggybank slightly drained...



It's also been painful to see the scenes in south-east Australia as the horrific bush fires have caused such destruction to plants, property, millions of animals and thousands of people. But it still came as a shock when we heard that one of the people affected was the very wonderful **Lily Heath-Massey** - daughter of **Tyler 'Mr Malvern' Massey** who moved to Oz a couple of years ago and married Brendan Hill, but sadly their home in Milton, New South Wales (NSW) was among the many properties destroyed by the fires.



So only right then that half-a-world away the local gigging and gig-going community rallied to support Tyler's fundraiser at **West Malvern Social Club** in aid of Lily & Brendan and also the NSW Fire Service with the compact venue packed to overflowing! This was a thoroughly heart-warming evening with great original music from **Chewie Beard, Carol Sampson & Don Macleod, Dave Onions** and the **Tyler Massey Quartet** (himself/Alex Wright/Tilly Chester/Eric Hej) - with plenty of well-intentioned asides at the mindless idiots who still deny that climate change contributed to this and other appalling events taking place across the world...

This was a wonderful example of the best that our local music scene can produce even at short notice when there's something very worthwhile to get together and play some music (live, local and original of course!) to help in some small way. Thanks to all those who attended and took part - and by the way Lily & Brendan's fundraising page is <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-us-rebuild-postbushfire> - many thanks in advance!

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

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Woo Fest wins top festival award

Organisers behind a well-loved county music festival are celebrating after winning a prestigious award.

Woo Fest, which is held each year at the Drum and Monkey pub in Upton upon Severn, scooped the prize for Best Small Festival at the UK Festival Awards in London. It faced competition from five other shortlisted events: ArcTanGent, Breaking Bands Festival, Camp Wildfire, Made In Manchester and Neighbourhood Festival.

Luke Simons, festival organiser, said: "We were thrilled to win the Best Small Festival Award. It was such an incredible feeling when it was announced and a really emotional evening for us."

Since its inception in 2014, the festival has donated all its proceeds to **St Richard's Hospice** and this year raised more than £20,000.

The festival was set up by Mr Simons and his sister Ria in memory of their father, John Simons, who was cared for by the hospice before he died in 2013 and since its inception has donated all its proceeds to St Richard's Hospice and this year raised more than £20,000.

The event now includes many people who have been touched by the care the hospice provides. "It's amazing to consider we started the festival as a one-off in memory of my dad and it has just grown and grown," said Mr Simons.



"We would like to thank all our customers and everyone single person involved in the festival. The support we get every single year is just amazing – it has been an incredible journey and we have met so many great people along the way. We visited the hospice on our return, which really hit home why we do this year after year. It's an incredible place that does so much for our community."

Claire James, hospice fundraiser, said: "We are so thrilled for the fabulous Woo Fest team and congratulate them on their very well-deserved award win. Each year, we are blown-away by the team's hard work in raising money for St Richard's Hospice and are so grateful for their tireless support. Without the support of people like these, we couldn't continue our care to patients and loved ones when they need us most."

For more information about **St Richard's Hospice** visit www.strichards.org.uk

Next up we were joined by special guests **Junction 7** who raised the roof with their high energy covers and incredible vocals - wow Jess can really belt them out - it was a fantastic performance and really grateful that the guys could join us at such late notice as special guests.

The start of the next set was an unexpected visual delight as **Chimp on a Bike** entered the stage dressed as an extremely round Santa, **Olaf** the lead-guitar snowman and 2 fetching elves much to the amusement of our resident compere **Spencer Lowe**. However if there was ever such an example as "don't judge a book by its cover" then this was certainly it - the boys smashed it playing a fantastic rock-filled slot with a particular highlight being their version of Billy Idol's *Rebel Yell*.

No sooner had **Chimp on a Bike** finished the gaffer himself **Brian Maher (Marzy)** entered the stage with Junction 7's lead singer **Jess** to treat us to a cracking version of the Pogue's *Fairytale of New York* complete with authentic Irish accents and a huge amount of audience participation. It is officially the start of Christmas when Marzy plays that one.

Finally, one of Woo Fest's biggest supporters, **Arcadia Roots** (minus Tom - we missed you mate) treated us to an incredible set of now well-known Arcadia tracks, the odd bit of Bob Marley and some new tracks from their upcoming album.

The dancefloor was packed and Arcadia wowed the crowd with their usual trance rhythms, meaningful lyrics and exceptional musicianship

All-in-all a phenomenal night with so many talented people playing to help raise a staggering £1,644.20 for **St Richards** via **Woo Fest** and a fantastic bunch of customers that any venue would be happy to host.

Photos: Andy Dawson

A Christmas Woo Write-up... Marrs Bar | Sunday 22nd Dec

The night started with a queue outside the Marrs bar with lots of very prompt supporters wanting to see all of the great musicians on the bill. **Ruben Seabright** kicked off the acoustic part of the evening off with his awesome mix of grunge classics and some really well written tunes, finishing with his ode to a local celebrity publican, **Mad Pierre**.

Kringo Blue was up next and thanks to the brotherhood of Worcester musicians managed to get his guitar picked up from another City centre pub (where it was previously locked in) just in time! Kringo was awesome with his fantastic finger plucking and velvet-smooth vocals and we particularly enjoyed his fantastic creation; *Heart and Soul* and his later combination with **Jake Marsh** on harmonica. Just as Kringo finished we got an immediate cameo appearance from his mate who now resides in Finland, **Stephen L Wright** aka **Nobby**, and what a cameo it was - a superb Irish tune played with great skill and we hope to see Nobby play again very soon!

Immy and the Boatman rounded off the acoustic session and despite some now very well-watered customers they transfixed the crowd with absolutely stunning vocals and fine combinations of originals and covers as you have never heard before, it was a beautiful set from Floyd to Massive Attack and even included a Fairport Convention number which was fantastic



Expanded Vintage Trax

If you love music, you'll love **Vintage Trax** in Redditch! We are an independent family business with a real passion for music of all kinds.

Following on from two small pop-ups shops in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre, Vintage Trax opened on Birchfield Road, Headless Cross in February 2015 and now with two rooms filled with quality, pre-loved vinyl records from the Big Band and Jazz era right through to the late 90s. As you'd expect this includes rarities, collectables and exclusive items.

Also offering retro cassette tapes, CDs, record sleeves, storage cases, music merchandise, books, and collectables as well as ordering in replacement stylus, cartridges and turntable belts. With local partners, **Vinyl Ventures**, they also offer a record cleaning service, hi-fi set up and technical audio advice.

And now they have a 2nd shop back in the town centre on **Market Walk** offering reconditioned hi-fi systems and separates, pre-loved musical instruments and amps, plus replacement strings, guitar straps & bags, drumsticks, accessories, T-shirts and music-related gifts, as well as a selection of pre-loved vinyl LPs, 45s and CDs. These extended services now include audio equipment servicing and repair and in-store instrument re-stringing at very competitive prices.

February marks 5 years since the opening of the **Headless Cross** shop, situated just a few yards from where Led Zeppelin drummer, John Bonham, was born. On Saturday 15th February a day of celebration will be held with music, special offers, giveaways and refreshments. And there will be a very special announcement too! Join them between 10.30am and 4.30pm and support your local, independent record shop.

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Norton Theatre Group Goldilocks & The Three Bears (script by Chris Bennion) 16-18 January 2020

It's that time of year again (oh no it isn't!) so cue a session of seasonal silliness courtesy of **Norton Theatre Group's** annual panto - this year's offering being the *Goldilocks* story - but as it's scripted once again by the very wonderful and mercurial **Chris 'Moldiwarts' Bennion**, the original tale tends to be a bit modified with a few subtle alterations - errumm ok let's be honest, it's got barely any resemblance to the traditional story at all - as I can't remember Worcester Parkway station or dodgy local councillors featuring in the fable - to the best of my recall at any rate!



But no problem whatsoever!! The action opens with archaeologist Professor Philias Fossilfind (*Cat Senter*) on her way to Prickleton Valley in search of a lost gold mine only to find that Lord Percy (*Sarah Bennion*) has rather inconveniently sited her - sorry his slightly dodgy circus (with a lion tamer allergic to cats and a human cannonball with vertigo) on top of the mine location...

To make matters worse the dastardly Lord Raven (*Rob Milner*) has also gotten wind of the prospect of untold riches (boo hiss!) and plots to gazump the Prof's plans! Lord Percy accepts a derisory offer to offload her - sorry his failing enterprise and while rubbing his hands in anticipation Raven realises he needs a place to stay so orders his henchmen (*Lucy Ramsey* and *Callum & Chloe Dimmock*) to evict the occupants of a nearby cottage - the surprisingly affable but slightly bureaucratic three bears mentioned above - bear with me on this - oh dear!

To cover his foul deeds Raven appoints Dame Dolly Diva (*Paul Jones*) to run the circus for him. Dame Dolly has already been through 16 marriages (four richer, four poorer, four better, four worse) but also happens to be Goldilocks' aunt - it's a panto about Goldilocks by the way...

Of course all turns out fine in the end for our heroes Jack Dangerfield (*Yvonne Ralphs*) and Goldilocks (*Anjuna Duke*) - and I must confess that I did enjoy the slapstick, overacting, singalongs, dodgy jokes and audience involvement (behind you!) - another thoroughly chucklesome offering with plenty of humour for the kids and not-so-young in equal measures from the pen of Mr Moldiwarts himself!

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



New Release

White Noise Cinema Unpersons

So it's been a long hard slog since we said goodbye to 2019 and came crashing down into 2020. The crawl to payday has been a long and hard one. To help me along, I stick on my favourite tunes and blow the cobwebs away. A bit of music therapy. And what better therapy than a new single from a local band you love?

If you haven't heard "Unpersons" by the truly awesome **White Noise Cinema** over the past few weeks, where have you been? Since hearing it, I've seen it shared and reviewed countless times on social media, and deservedly so.

This band are difficult to compare to anyone else, what they offer is unique and diverse.

With 6 members in the band, it's easy to see how the music is so complex and layered. Moods, emotions and preferences from each of them ooze out into the creative process of each track.

"Unpersons" stamps its foot down and declares itself an anthem from its haunting and hypnotic intro. As the chorus comes punching through, the message that people are always trying to outdo each other becomes clear. "My God is bigger than your God"...people needlessly striving to have better, bigger, more than the next person.

This song is the type of track you would hear accompanying a fight scene in a Box Office movie. **White Noise Cinema** stand undefeated once again. In the middle, the track slows down, the aftermath, the time to contemplate, before we explode back into the chorus.

The beating heart of the track has an industrial sound and feel, with a healthy mix of electronica, pop and rock thrown in to appeal to a wider audience.

My own interpretation of the lyrics is, as we go through life, the people we meet and every decision we make pushes us further and further into a "them and us" scenario. Competing and vying for superiority, we're all in different corners. I may be wrong, but the band themselves offer up the opportunity to find our own meaning in the lyrics.

The accompanying video, which in itself is getting a lot of attention as it was shot locally in Kiddeminster by videographer **James Delin**, shows a young woman as she goes along interacting with others, some

good, some seemingly uncomfortable.

Ben, Will, James, Scott, Benjamin and Tom, you've done it again. There isn't a doubt in my mind that bright things are in your future. Go light up the world guys!

Kate Ford





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Y!KES

Everything Pointless Is Correct

Y!KES bill themselves as a big block of noise from the UK, and going by their new EP "Everything Pointless Is Correct", out on 21st February, they're not wrong.

Monster sounds combined with intricate "distorted" poetry for lyrics, this 5 track EP literally screams to be listened to and enjoyed. Give it a go, I dare you.

"Chekhovs Gun Theory" starts with a deceiving slow indie intro, but soon ramps up a minute in , and turns into a head banging indie tune. Packed full of guitar riffs and determined vocals, the 5 minute track will lead you into a false sense of serenity before grabbing you by the ear drums and demanding you to listen.

Second track "Hold On To Your Grudge" will melodically grab your attention straight away. To me, a song about building someone up, then knocking them back down, the gritty music holds this track up for inspection, which it passes with flying colours.



Track 3, "Repeat the Objective" reminds me of Muse from the get go, clever and impressive guitars whining in unison with the defiant vocalist. A guitar solo as the track draws into its last minutes proves that this is a musically talented bunch of guys.

"Hiding in Plain Sight" has an accompanying video, and the opening strains already offer up this single for radio air play.

Poetic lines such as "Still chasing rainbows that only show their colours when they're black or they're blue" show another side to the talents of this multi faceted four piece from Birmingham. An age old tale of the struggles of making a relationship work, despite the hard times. "If you want me I'll be hiding in plain sight", a willingness to be there if you decide it's worth fighting for. The video follows a faceless figure as they go about their day, their face literally unseen , all we see is the reactions of those the encounter, which range from fear, to confusion to hilarity. At the end, it's revealed that the face is a mirror, perhaps an thought provoking insight into how we see ourselves.

Final song "Spitfire Salutes" demands that whatever you do, you'd better do it in style , as again it screeches powerfully along with the promise to get you dancing in your seat or wherever you choose to listen.

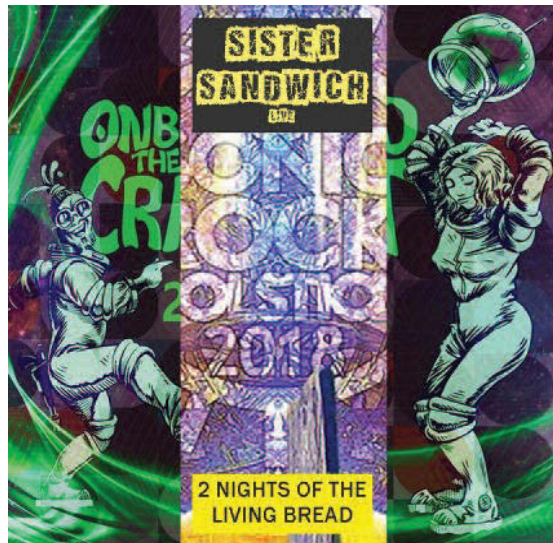
On their Facebook page, I read that their live shows will "melt your face". I'm up for it, are you?

Kate Ford

Sister Sandwich

2 Nights of the Living Bread

For those of you who aren't familiar with **Sister Sandwich** let me fill you in. Formed from members on the Shropshire-Worcestershire borders in 1992 they were originally called **Sister Savage** and the **Buggered Nuns**. They soon become a popular



fixture on the Wyre Forest music scene with their energetic party atmosphere fuelled live shows and a name change to the more palatable **Sister Sandwich** soon followed. This is a rather apt name many of the band's songs are re-workings of well-known tunes re-written to feature food-based lyrics played in a comedy

punk/alt rock stylee. Add to this mix a lead vocalist (The Sister) who takes to the stage in a full-on sandwich costume and you get the picture.

The band's latest release entitled *2 Nights of the Living Bread* is a live album recorded from the band's 2018 and 2019 sets at the **Sonic Rock Solstice Festival** in Stoke Prior. All the usual food-based puns are there with such great re-imagines as *Blitzkrieg Bap* (Ramones – Blitzkrieg Bop), *Egg & Bacon Sarnie* (White Stripes – Seven Nation Army), *Breville Yell* (Billy Idol – Rebel Yell) and my personal favourite, *Pasta of the Universe* (Hawkwind – Master of the Universe).

With 15 tracks of comedy covers the album perfectly encapsulates the band's live shows which themselves can be summed up in one-word FUN. If you've not caught Sister Sandwich live yet, get out there and check them out. If you already have and want to re-enjoy the daftness then buy *2 Nights of the Living Bread*. It's sure to bring a smile to your face

Jason K - Punk by Nature

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Simon Othen Appletree Hammock

For those unfortunate not to be 'in the know' **Simon Othen** is a venerable musician of this parish and has been wowing the crowds in many diverse combos, currently plying his trade with the massively fun and entertaining **Woo Town Hillbillies**.

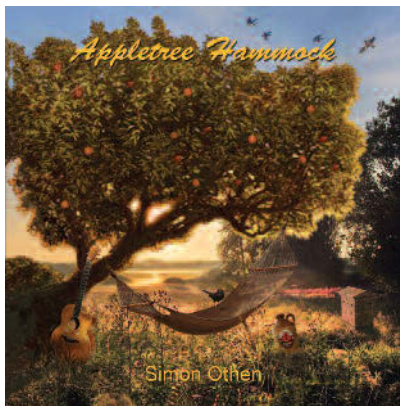
On *Appletree Hammock*, Simon strikes out on his own and may I say straightaway what a many-splendoured delight this collection is.

I love an album that begins with an instrumental track and so it is with *Sups Up*, a jolly upbeat number hinting at the many pleasures contained within.

Simon plays some terrific twang guitar summoning the likes of Duane Eddy and Hank Marvin to mind, while also slipping in some sassy slide licks for good measure.

Prisonwall follows hot on the heels and immediately stuns you into disbelief that this isn't a cover version of a much-loved Robert Cray number. "*She grew up by the prison wall*" hollers Simon on this classic tale of a femme fatale. More superior slide on this Walking The Dog type song.

Next we are *Landlocked* and there is no let-up in quality as Simon's passionate voice comes to the fore on this stately song, reminding me of *Moonlight Mile* plus its almost namesake *Land Locked Blues* by Bright Eyes. Even vocally there is a touch of Conor Oberst here as Simon intones lines such as "*Arms wrap around you like a safe harbour wall, landlocked together we'll make sense*." Topped off with a beautiful Knopfler-esque acoustic solo, this is marvellous, life enhancing music.



Anyone who has seen **The Woo Town Hillbillies** in recent times will be familiar with *Dartmoor Girl* which has made regular appearances in their live sets and once more this piece underlines what a great writer Simon is. Another classic which sounds like it's been around forever, its breezy demeanour and memorable melody, is topped off with Othen's tasty key changes.

Do Not Disturb brings a nice change of pace as we move into more bucolic territory, Simon wowing us with a masterful combination of sweet acoustic picking and Telecaster lead,

together with more clever wordsmithery, to wit: "*Airplane mode and time to breath, vapour trails up through the leaves*".

Heart forever on sleeve & amply displayed by *Forever In My Soul* and *Follow Your Heart*, the former full of beautiful minor chord changes, the latter all chugging riffs plus fine fretless bass from maestro **Paul Smith**.

Typically for such a musical polymath, Simon changes down again for *Train At The Bottom Of The Garden* wherein Othen's sublime acoustic picking invokes such greats as Jansch, Renbourn, Davy Graham finishing with a fine Django flourish.

The final song *Don't Get Blinded By Love* is a cautionary tale wrapped in a motoring West Coast, bluesy number: "*Don't get fooled by hate*" is a timely message for us all!

Appletree Hammock really is a future classic full of stunning songwriting and **Simon Othen's** terrific talent for a tune, marvellous melodies, great lyrics and top drawer musicianship.

I believe the only way of obtaining the album for now is by way-laying the good fellow when next you see him at a Woo Towns gig.

Now there's a reason if one is needed to git yerself down to that next yee-ha-ing hoedown!

Words by Granny Smith and Gordon Delicious

Quinn Lam | 20 Year Old Car

Before listening to the debut album by Birmingham based singer-songwriter Quinn Lam, I do my usual scour of the internet looking for clues about what to expect. Quinn's Facebook page gives little away, simply stating that, 'hmmm needs more guitar'...

With little to go on and fewer pre-conceptions, I dive headfirst into the opening, title track, where I encounter a stirring mix of strummed acoustic and shuffling percussion. Initially reminiscent of early KT Tunstall, Lam slides across her electric to deliver a soulful, rootsy blues croon. The combination of pattered percussion, acoustic and electric guitar alongside Quinn's lead vocal draws you in from the off, promising an intimate yet engaging affair.

"Truth Be Told" has a little more urgency; driving percussion and instantly infectious riffs collide to propel the track forward at a decent rate of knots, whilst Lam delivers a confident, swaggering vocal hook that has me scrambling for a repeat spin as soon as the first run has taken its



turn. The six-minute "Soul Who Travelled" suggests something of a Celtic influence, as wordless harmonies join the evocative mix of beaten-out rhythms and shimmers of electric guitar, beckoning you on a journey to new heights.

As "20 Year Old Car" continues, Quinn nods, at times, towards bluesgrass, folk and blues, running roughshod across the roots

spectrum for the album's forty minute duration. The sparkle and fade guitars of "Philosophy" transcend genre, as Lam delivers a sound entirely of her own making.

Guitar prowess and the musicality of 20 Year Old Car might be the first thing you notice listening to Quinn's nine-track debut, but subsequent listens reveal a captivating storyteller within the likes of "Dirty Class" - more than worthy of note.

20 Year Old Car is an absolute must-hear for fans of roots and blues alike as Quinn Lam announces herself in dramatic

fashion with her striking debut.

Quinn Lam launches 20 Year Old Car on February 15th At 1000 Trades, Birmingham.

Will Munn

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The Humdrum Express Ultracrepidarian Soup

To say that a new Long Player from **The Humdrum Express** is awaited with much frothing in anticipation here at Slap Mansions is an ultra-understatement.

And so with hands a-tremble and knees a-knocking I press play and am greeted with the now familiar to us Humdrum followers, Hummddrummies if you will, soon to be a hit new single, *Motivational Wall Art*.

It's a minor chord classic of its kind, packed with puns and sets the tone for the album. Particularly welcome is a sideswipe at *The Artist Formerly Known As Mozzer*.

Online Beer Club is another now established live classic and previous single which again illustrates early on how many blooming good tunes this man has spoiled us with over the years. As the title suggests this song is concerned with the tiresome hipster craft beer scene and its inherent snobbery plus one-upmanship. No beard no brogues no welcome.

Blue Plaque Building reminds us what a massive Half Man Half Biscuit fan Mr Humdrum is and quite rightly so. **The Humdrum Express** are no slaves to their influences however and you'll all be singing "Hey can I get a round of sour shots" next time you're in the local.

Novelty Tie is up next as the catchy infectious numbers keep on coming at you. It's very difficult to write this review without quoting loads of the canny couplets but I shall refrain and allow you to discover them all for your lucky selves. I will though tease you with the refrain "Tribute bands and hurricanes!"

Coffin Cam is a wistful pretty ditty which brings to mind The Smiths of *Please Please Please*...and continues the album's theme of the pitfalls, pratfalls and downfalls regarding our increasingly online obsessed world. The digital age has brought us many positives and benefits but we need the Humdrum Expresses of the world to satirise and warn against the silliness, sadness and downright insanity of many cyber goings on.

Message Board Hooligan is classic indie clatter and I am reminded that in amongst the mind-boggling amount of breathtaking wordplay there is a seriously good band at work here. Ian's crisp clipped guitar melds marvellously with **Andrew Boswell's** great guttural bass undertow.

The briskly paced *Curse Of The Modern Musician* is a diatribe about the need for some modern day musicians to keep us constantly updated on their every utterance regardless of quality. Ultracrepidarians anyone?!

Pop Culture Musings is an hilarious and self-deprecating number should Ian ever get ideas of grandeur above his (Severn Valley) station. This song comes with lovely laid back loungey setting somewhat reminiscent of The Divine Comedy.

This vibe continues into another now live fan favourite

Fading Stars On Social Media. Musically this could have been on More Specials as **Chris Taylor-Ashcroft's** swirling Hammond vies with the classy cocktail cabaret stylings of **Carl Bayliss's** drums, whilst searing sax breaks abound from **Ted Cartwright**.

Another top single *E-Petition* blasts out next like a Humdrum Borstal Breakout, the nearest they get to terrace chant. No feedback is all I'll say.

A maelstrom of sax once more informs the dub reggae vibe of *The King Of Spain* whose production reminds me somewhat of late period mature Madness meets Baxter Dury.

Sadly we then reach the end with the funky-assed mod Hammond mover of a number *Chased By The Grammar Police*. Gawd help me is all I can say as apparently there's a "Death sentence for a misplaced apostrophe" as the grammar nazis get a good going-over by the poisonous pen of Mr P.

With *Ultracrepidarian Soup* **The Humdrum Express** have produced an album of immense wit, musicality and fun, choc-full of trenchant observations and consummate musicianship.

The album is already gaining nationwide radio play on 6 Music and is destined to greatly enhance this band's stature and standing.

The Humdrum Express have created their own rich interior world in the grand tradition of such artists as The Fall, The Wedding Present, Billy Childish and the sainted Biccies, with **Ian Passey's** passion for words reminding me of Ian Dury's total dedication to his art.

It's a veritable Humdrum humdinger of an album and should be bought at your earliest opportunity if not before, from thehumdrumexpress.com. Enjoy!

Words by Steffo



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Q&A with The Humdrum Express

Ahead of the arrival of a new, hotly anticipated album from **The Humdrum Express**, we Slapped a few questions on main man **Ian Passey's** desk in a bid to find out the recipe for *Ultracrepidarian Soup*.

Q) First up, 'that' title: *Ultracrepidarian Soup*. Tell us more about where it came from, how you settled on it, were there any other working titles, and most importantly what the flip does it mean??

A) Ha ha! An 'ultracrepidarian' is a presumptuous critic who offers opinion on matters far outside their sphere of knowledge. I was originally alerted to it by Countdown's Susie Dent which led to it getting a mention in the opening track, Motivational Wall Art. There were several working titles, none of which I was entirely happy with, but once I'd settled on this one I knew it was perfect for the album.

Q) It's been a good three and a half years since your last excellent and well received album, *The Day My Career Died*. Was the long(ish) gestation of your new meisterwerk deliberate, a natural formation or a just a case of life getting in the way?

A) I suppose it was a mixture of all three. I released the Lookalike Bond E.P. less than a year after 'Career Died' so I didn't really take a break to bathe in the adulation! The Rose Theatre show also took a lot of planning, as did the E-Petition video shoot, so the album itself was probably just over two years in the making.

The idea was to come up with a body of work focusing on the quirks of social media and its knock-on effect. As a result, I went quite a long time without releasing anything, but I think it works well as a collection of songs and I'm proud of how it's turned out. It's also my first release on vinyl, in addition to the usual CD and digital formats, which fulfills a lifetime dream.

Aside from all things Humdrum, I've also got family life, a day job and West Bromwich Albion to consider - so I always have to keep several plates spinning!

Q) This is your first album to feature a full band line up, could tell us a little about your working practices and how you record?

A) As with the previous two albums, esteemed producer Mick Lown is at the helm. We've hit upon a great way of working, usually in short segments, striking a balance between audio experimentation and producing a finished product.

We recorded most of the band tracks 'live' to get a natural feel and then added the extra instruments and vocals. A couple of the songs were built up from scratch in the studio to add a bit of variety, a method we've used to good effect in the past.

I must admit, putting the band together has given me a new lease of musical life. Boz, Chris, Ted and especially Carl(!) are all busy in other groups as well, so I'm always grateful that they can find time to be part of this too. I love having the option of both solo and full band gigs; it keeps everything fresh and means the two sets are generally quite different.



Q) Your vitriolic pen portraits of various tedious humanoid types are legendary. I was wondering if you are inspired by certain individuals and experiences, or if they were more general observations. I was thinking particularly of *Fading Stars* on *Social Media*.

A) Although that song is a fictional tale, it was inspired by a person who shall remain nameless (in print, at least!) A man with a great musical career under his belt, living a pampered life, where his opinion is the only one that matters...

On a more general theme, ideas come from an unlimited supply of sources!

I really enjoyed writing within the confines of an overall concept this time around. Once I was in the right mindset they seemed to flow pretty quickly.

Q) *Ultracrepidarian Soup* is the 6th **Humdrum Express** album now and I sense a certain maturity (in a good way) in the song writing, instrumentation and arrangements. How do you perceive this, and future developments of the band? Are there any plans to record with The London Symphony Orchestra or perform an extravaganza on ice, for example??!

A) Well, this is certainly a good time to be considering different possibilities. The band has evolved greatly over the past couple of years and I'd like to think everyone's happy to continue the journey further. I've got an idea for another theatre show but whether it will be this year or next remains to be seen!

I'd love to have a book published - a mix of poems, lyrics and gigging anecdotes - so I'll be spending time putting that together too.

I've got three new songs already written and I'd also quite like to be asked to appear on *Strictly Come Dancing*, if the truth be told!

Q) Finally, apart from the more distant future can you tell about the immediate Humdrum diary and plans to promote *Ultracrepidarian Soup*?

By the time this issue of Slap Mag hits the newsstands you'll be basking in reflective glory after a doubtlessly successful, sold out album launch at Stourbridge's premier night spot, **Claptrap**. However I see there's a Brum Radio session due on April 1st, so any chance of another **6 Music** session with **Steve Lamacq** or similar?

A) Apart from a new video release in late Feb/early March I've not planned too far ahead. The new single has just been aired on **6 Music**, so I'm always hopeful of more opportunities there, but it's a very competitive market and I appreciate how lucky I am to have had the chances that I've already been given.

I've got a couple of solo shows coming up, and I'm pretty much open to offers. Artists get gigs in one of two ways - they ask or they get asked. Like everyone else, I much prefer the latter as I like to feel wanted! I just hope that's not too subtle a hint for promoters and festival bookers...

Heinz-Sight | 5Shocks

It may only be mid-January, but singer-songwriter **Heinz-Sight** (Simon to his friends) has already released the most important and honest single of the year; *5Shocks*. Bromsgrove-based Simon has always been an open book when it comes to his battles with mental health, and *5Shocks* presents these trials and tribulations on disc, in a bid to help others by urging the listeners to reach out and never suffer in silence.

Musically, **Heinz-Sight** delivers his message by blurring genres. Laidback, rapped verse gives way to an instantly infectious choral pop hook, all the while a simple yet contagious piano melody runs through-out, acting as both guide and frame to Simon's heartfelt lyrics. A spoken word plea breaks the track up, adding extra

urgency to its personal and poignant message; that those who are suffering should reach out.

5Shocks doesn't just deserve to be heard, it needs to be shared. Look up the track, you'll find the video and it's sure to light up social media. Let everyone know there's always someone out there who will listen.



Will Munn

Dinky | Open Letters

West Midlands based four-piece **Dinky** have been gigging around the Midlands, London and beyond for a few years having seen their debut EP, *As I Falter*, find favour with the likes of BBC Introducing, Kerrang Radio and Free Radio among others. Since the band's initial successes they went on to release a digital single in the shape of 'Give Me Your Love' before returning to the studio with producer, **Andy Taylor** (The Twang, Editors, etc), which they released back in 2016. Since then the band have been hard at work gigging and writing new material, resulting in the release of the band's second album, *Open Letters* towards the back end of last year.

Self described as alternative indie rockers, **Dinky** kick their second album off with a flurry of drums and a brief bowl of feedback before the lead guitarist cranks out one of those instantly infectious 90's Britrock inspired riffs that dominated the airwaves a few years back, before *The Romance In Murder* is unveiled as a spiky, hook-laden rocker reminiscent of a full throttle Feeder or Ash at their prime. *Jennifer*

Against The World dials things back a little as the band step off the gas, showcasing those indie credentials by welding a contagious melody with a Manics like choral refrain.

Magnetic Fields sees **Dinky** strip things back even further, leaving the guitars safely in their cases, as the band gather round the piano for a startling and affecting ballad peppered with harmonies and subtle strings as the band prove more than adept at showing their vulnerable side and showcasing a versatility over the the first three tracks that some acts never come to in a lifetime.

Dinky continue the diverse nature of the album over the eleven track duration, from the dreamy indie-pop of *More Than I Was Before* to the wordless hook embedded into the grooves of power-pop perfection of *Lights Go Down* through to the brooding rock of *Oxygen* with its potent riffs and mesmeric, bubbling middle twist.

Don't let the band's monicker mislead you, there's nothing diminutive about **Dinky**, the West Midlands based quartet are all about big hooks and big melodies and with the release of *Open Letters*

they've managed just that.

www.dinkymusic.co.uk

Will Munn

Tremendous | Copycat Killer

TREMENDOUS are a Black Country and Brum based trio and as this their 4th single kicks in it positively blasts out of the speakers like a good 7" should.

This cracking song comes on all gloriously raunchy'n'rowdy riffin' guitar bringing to mind Johnny Thunders through to Slash via Steve Jones: yes it's that good!

Singer **Mark Dudzinski** has all the top-notch chops going on as he invokes the spirits of Jagger, Johansen, Tyler and more.

Don't get me wrong though these doodz have their own sound and style, carrying off this number with tons of class and ease, plus they have a lot of fun doing it.

Mark D is ably abetted by **Ryan Jee** on bass and **David Lee** on drums as they thrash and vamp for all they're worth on this catchy-as-hell choon taken from their soon come & must have album *RELENTLESS*.

Copycat Killer swaggers and sashays with all the splendour of the glam-punk heritage this tasty threesome are so obviously in love with. Think Dolls, Brats & Pistols, mix in the muscularity of Aerosmith + G'n'R and you're not too far off target.

So yeah get yer rocks off and blow yer sox off, this is absolutely **TREMENDOUS!!**

Words by Kane Daley IV



Popa Chubby

Iron Road, Pershore | Friday 24th Jan

US behemoth **Popa Chubby** and his band followed on from their night at the famed 100 Club in Oxford Street with a date at Pershore's **Iron Road**. Supporting Popa on his UK dates was **Ron Sayer**. I knew of Ron, having reviewed an album in 2018, but had never seen him play. Popa Chubby had pulled in a large crowd and there was an air of expectancy as the support moved onto the stage.

I don't think many knew of Sayer, but any doubts were blown away as he bit into 12 bar blues shuffle, the road worn Strat responding to his every move. A Blues Award winning writer and talented guitarist, he funkyed up with *'Little White Lies'* and then delivered a superb *'I Ain't Leaving'*. Just when we thought it couldn't get better, Ron threw in a stunning Rory Gallagher song, *'I Wonder Who'*, leaving us all wondering how on earth Popa Chubby is going to follow that! Put simply, the man can play, with the bonus that he's extremely entertaining in his style. Note to self; must see again.

It has to be said that **Popa Chubby** is a larger than life character. His discography is impressive and he is recognised across the world; indeed, it transpired that some in the audience had seen him in Tokyo. Accompanied by bass and drum, he sits on stage, pedal train at his feet, microphone ready, battered Fender in hand and nothing changes for what would be a full 2 1/2 hours of music. Glass bottle slide in hand, he slid his way into a dirty *'Rollin & Tumblin'*, his own 'signature' tune. Time is eaten away as *'Hey Joe'*



fills the electric atmosphere, the guitar is explored in every conceivable way, fingers dance up and down the neck, strings are bent and caressed, as we enter guitar heaven.

'Mighty Hard Road', the title track of his new release, and **Papa Chubby** demanded and got a mighty chorus of audience participation: This is a song that certainly tempts you into digging into the new recording. The tide is ripping in across the stage and surf rock rides the wave; *'Miserlou'* with more eddies and currents than any beach bum could handle, and then we flow into an exotic tasting *'What I Say'*, superbly surfed through.

Papa is travelling back down the blues trail of Robert Johnson with *'Love And Hate'*, though maybe not in a way RJ would recognise it. Its nearing midnight, we've all been sated with music, drunk on superlative string shredding guitar from masterful **Popa Chubby**, and he's still sitting there as he finally drives out the Stones' *'Wild Horses'* to close what was a memorable evening of so few songs yet so much music!

Graham Munn

The Official Receivers

The Marris Bar | Friday 20th Dec

It's been a while since I caught up with the **Official Receivers**, they seem to have been here forever, bringing their non stop, energy sapping soul to venues across the Midlands. Working out of Redditch, the big brassy sound has garnered numerous fans clamouring to get up and groove to their wall of sound.



Their late December show at the **Marris Bar** was destined to be a sell out, the penultimate gig before their home town finale.

Who hasn't wondered whether the perspiring Len, with his breathtaking lyrical delivery, might just collapse in front of us as he drains his batteries. Rick, a smile etched on his face, gets his chance now and then to let rip on the guitar, meanwhile faces redden as the horns are inflated. The Marris Bar was unwrapped,



the confection offered, *'Be Young Be Foolish'*, with Len assuring us *'I Feel Good'*, all the way to a, *'War'* medley. Damn, what is it good for, absolutely nothing, because there's more to come. Once Len has changed his Duracell's.

With Len refreshed and *'Looking Good'*, we are taken on another rip-tide ride. *'Move on Up'*, and make some space, for this *'Sweet Soul Music'*. For 28 years the OR's have been bankrupting our soul. Years have taken their toll, musicians moved in, musicians moved out. Lenny and Rick, have gained a few lines and maybe a little weight, the brass tarnishes, and has to be polished up, whilst the acolytes and diehards keep the faith, maturing with the band.

Live music breathes through the people who grew up with it, and like the band this evening, we're all carrying a few too many years. We all, old and new, should be getting out there, supporting the new bands on the local scene as they cut their teeth, whilst appreciating the live bands that can still fill a venue to capacity... just like the Official Receivers, have done for so long.

Graham Munn

2nd Birthday Gig Paradiddles | 14th Dec

Paradiddles Music Cafe and Bar in Sidbury, Worcester celebrated it's now-traditional birthday gig for the second year running on the 14th December. As well as cake, there was a selection of talented artists from the local area and beyond, performing to the punters. The gig room was packed for most of the day and evening, and lots of people showed up to celebrate!

Young band **Wylde** kicked things off with a blend of originals and covers. Their scrappy, no-nonsense indie-punk sound showed the clear influence of bands like *Slaves* (whose track "*Do Something*" was covered with accuracy and style), and their frontman was engaging and lively in a way that suited the band's direct sound. Next up was **Glitch**, with their brand of spirited alt-rock sounding tight and full-bodied, with two guitarists and melodic, powerful vocals. A mix of heavier and more mellow tracks was the order of the day here - and they even threw in a disco-inspired track that got the crowd moving on the dancefloor even before it was dark outside!

Malvern's **Tyler Massey Trio** (or Duo? percussionist Eric was unfortunately absent!) played their well-known and well-loved folk rock songs to a standard as high as ever. Political songs like "*Whipping Boy*" went down a storm with the crowd - particularly relevant only two days after a general election with the threat of further devastating austerity, cuts to the arts, and inequality looming on the horizon. The silver lining was that the sense of togetherness in the crowd was palpable, a reminder that hard times can often produce the best art. Raucous punk duo **Rusty Knives** dialled the political fury up another notch, with sneering vocals, barbed guitar, and a stabbing drum machine. Their sound was short, sharp, direct and proudly anti-Tory. Their set ended in a squall of feedback, galvanising the crowd with steadily increasing energy.

Paradiddles veterans **The Miffs** played as the sun was setting, delivering a set of heavy punk-inflected alt-rock that was reminiscent of '80s college rock and bands like *The Replacements*. A cracking cover of Violent Femmes classic "*Blister in the Sun*", with a singalong of "*Happy Birthday*" in the middle, went down a treat.

Worcestershire's own **State of Ember**, best known for the inclusion of their track "*Denial*" in the video game *Wreckfest*, served up the heaviest performance of the evening so far, with tight playing, heavy metal-ish riffs, and an energetic and intense performance.

The Jericho Racks, who formed in Paradiddles' own rehearsal room, returned with a bunch of new songs that went down just as well as the rest of their now well-loved repertoire. Older tracks like "*Easy to Be Afraid*" were greeted warmly, and newer tracks



like "*Oh Me Oh My*", with its trippy, psychedelic guitar solo, displayed a few new tricks up the band's sleeve. Building Giants' riff-heavy modern rock was reminiscent of bands like *Royal Blood*, and this combined with their passionate, dynamic performance made them a band to watch in future. By this point the energy in the venue was high, and grungy rock duo **Hipflask Virgins** kept it that way, which was no surprise to those familiar with the band's frequently raucous live shows and infectious singles like "*Thumbs Up*" and "*Unintentional*".

The final band of the night, Birmingham's **Mixtape Saints**, capped the night off with a selection of anthemic singalongs played tight and loud. The band's blend of influences from pop-punk, lo-fi indie, and classic emo struck a chord with everyone attending, and provided a fitting close to the celebrations. By the end of the night, ears were ringing, heads were spinning, and memories had been made. Cheers **Paradiddles**, here's to another year!

Dan Knight

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Soul Ledbury The Royal Hall, Ledbury | 2nd Anniversary Night

For the second anniversary of **Soul Ledbury**, just like the election, it was obvious that it was all about the numbers. To celebrate two years of growing loyal support, the **Royal Hall** graciously allowed three extra hours for the event, so the Soul Club could celebrate their populist vote. As co-founder and dedicated **DJ Mike Simon** is fond of stating: *"The Royal Hall are good to us."* – too true!

Truly, the club's popularity is reflected on their social media site – now over 200 members! –and there is only one word to capture the sharing of rare and popular Soul and the interaction between the members online: kind. In person, the warmth dispensed at the front door and the warmth of the greeting at the bar is underlined once again by just one word: kind. As a working manifesto I think this is a great start.

At the start of the all-day, (we were through the door for 4pm and, unsurprisingly, were not the first) unnoticed by most, lay a kit bag in front of the decks, adorned with sew on patches from a by-gone era. Badges representing clubs, nights, journeys and memories stitched on a holdall that would have traditionally contained dancing shoes, talc and a change of clothes; these seemingly anonymous bags symbolise, for many in the room, a socio-history. A history that Soul Ledbury is more than a part of...

More and more devotees attend the club now than ever before, I recall co-ordinator **Alister Cole** and regular DJ, admitting at an early event – *"When we first put on a Soul night we were not sure if anyone would turn up."* – two years on, several thousand pounds worth of rare and popular soul later, innumerable hours of vinyl spinning and an incalculable amount of hard work and it is clear that **Soul Ledbury** have a landslide victory on their hands. You need more than a lucky sprig of Heather to achieve this...although she has played her part of course.

Playing their part, all for free, throughout the course of the eight hour Soul night were five DJs - **David Hughes, Les Wright** and **Ray Evans** do not need me to massage their egos with a mention - that adorned the decks (the DJ booth bedecked in pre-Christmas decorations affected the look of Santa's grotto) and ensured the dance-floor was used for its intended purpose; starting with the little known, the obscure and the esoteric before segueing in to the big-hitters, scene anthems and crowd-pleasers that would galvanise a disinterested and election-fatigued populous in to voting with their feet.

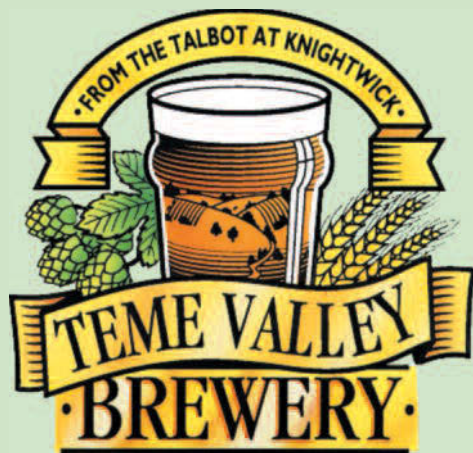
Early on the dancefloor ignited more spontaneously than a twitter storm: with a flash of red flares, controlled twirls, lost in the music skipping and a well-rehearsed side-step, all in 4x4 time to Soul that you would have to strive hard to track down. Time and time again dancers filled the floor, yes, at times pedestrian and reserved, but determined and resolute in their single-minded pursuit of dancing satisfaction. A flick of a highly polished shoe, a

billowing leg of a pair of baggies, instigated a theatrical spin – a fleeting statuesque pose held for a second – signalled a musical break, a brass section highlight or the intro to a soulful opus of sublime beauty that would have arrived in the 60s, in a crate, from the States.

When knowledgeable and discerning Soulies attend your event and are willing to travel in numbers-you know that you can't put a value to that fact. With attendees from Malvern, Tewkesbury, Hereford, Evesham, Pershore, Worcester and with soul crew connections spanning Blackpool and Blackpole...well, then the sums add up in all the columns.

Additionally, the night came replete with a free buffet as a generous gesture from the good people of the Royal Hall and of course there is no need for a referendum: Soul and a free buffet? Although, it needs to be acknowledged that the night contained both Leavers and Remainers; the leavers wanted to return home to plan the next outing for March 14th and the remainers simply wanted the night to continue. Again, Mike Simon's comment echoed the sentiments behind a kind and welcoming night of Soul that was conceived over 24 months ago and has made £6000 (!) for the research into Parkinson's disease: a disease that does no good for anyone. Conversely, Soul Ledbury have been bloody good to their nominated charity and let's be honest here, good to ALL of us in delivering on all their Soul-party pledges: as we knew they would. Ps We do hope Sue is feeling better soon...

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The Christians

Iron Road, Bar 57, Pershore | 30th Nov

At the advent of the season of good will - the most Christian of festivals - the **Iron Road** venue in Pershore was crammed and ready to celebrate unconditionally the coming of one the 80s most recognisable singers to our locale, but first...

Local lad **Tom Davies** is currently proving his worth, primed only with his acoustic guitar, youthful exuberance and a tool box of songs - we wish him well. On the evidence of this evening and the knowledge that he was recording his first single the following morning, one cannot help but feel that he was already adding to his own flock of followers.

The Christians, now consist of only one of the original brothers - **Gary Christian**. The lead singer, who has inspired much adulation was once cheekily compared to "one of the Temptations in ripped jeans." However, the singer

is more than the sum of his parts. The night's entertainment is interspersed with anecdotes, observations, political comment and in-band ribbing that in an intimate venue like **Iron Road** works and the candle-lit audience luxuriated in a night of convivial chat and soul-infused songs...all delivered on a silver platter of a voice.

The gold-starred musical anthology of the Christian's is one that is to be respected. The social commentary and the wry look at injustices contained in his songs are - dare I whisper it - as poignant today as they were when they were written in the 80s (sic). When Christian first sang - "all my life I've been oppressed" - we didn't realise the sentiments would still pulsate in 2019. I recall reading an article in a teenage music magazine, owned by my mate's niece, in the late 80s and the jocular **Gary Christian** was asked his school nickname to which he replied: "N*gger, no only joking." Thankfully, the word has all but been erased from casual usage, however, I am sure you appreciate my point?



Christian's self-deprecating humour and his impish mind also allowed him to get away with dedicating "*Forgotten Town*" to the host town. The songs may be loaded with political comments but the songs are also highly danceable and accordingly the dancers congregated in numbers on the dancefloor.

Christian was preaching to the converted but he would not have been able to replicate his soulful ballads without a competent band and this band was not competent - they were the very embodiment of a highly polished professional band who too enjoyed the personable venue. Although, they were not going to get away with their convincing performance, not with **Gary Christian** at the pulpit: "*The guitarist is thinking of leaving, so he's a twat!*"

Christian's mellow voice, prominent cheek bones, school-yard humour and well-practised stage persona were a fitting tribute to both the audience and the venue. Our increasingly illustrious venue, **Iron Road-Bar 57**, is consolidating its place in the locale more and more each month; presenting an impressive range of performers, from original acts to tribute bands with a point to prove.

The Bob Marley tribute act - "**Legend**" - that I was lucky enough to witness, on the 21st of December was a near epiphany experience - the reggae infused hymns satisfying the once again, full dancefloor - the Legend band are as well-rehearsed as a Vicar's speech and the whole spectacle a fitting tribute to Marley's legacy. The venue may not be as established as the Colosseum; conversely, you would have to be a heathen not to appreciate this gem of a venue on your doorstep. Amen.

Nicholas David Burford

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Nikki Rous, Bryony Williams and Christie Reeves

Tower of Song, King's Heath | Sun 24th Nov

One of the most engaging features of the **Female Voices** series is the opportunity to experience artists with whom you are completely unfamiliar. This time, for me, that means the whole bill...

Christie Reeves is first up tonight. She's a ukulele playing singer/songwriter from Birmingham and the first thing you notice about her when she arrives on stage is that she's a tiny figure, and I half expect her voice to reflect her slight stature. Wrong.

When her voice arrives, it is simply wonderful - hugely powerful and very rich in tone and the opener, her new single '*Salt Water*' is a perfect vehicle for it - highly melodic with a driving beat and huge commercial potential. It's a hell of a start, and she succeeds in maintaining that high standard throughout.



The ukulele can be a rather thin instrument in some hands, but not tonight. As well as brisk chord work, there's a good deal of finger style on show and this is amply demonstrated on a slightly surprising cover, Fleetwood Mac's '*Dreams*' - a beautiful and unusual reworking.

Another cracking track is '*Temptation*', a glorious piece of pop delivered at a brisk clip, while the delicate '*Colours*' shows she can pen a good ballad as well.

A really great opening to the evening.

Bryony Williams has left something behind, she tells us - it's her band! Unlike most of the artists that have entertained us at **Tower of Song**, she's an electric performer, and apprehensive as she may be about performing a solo electric set, she absolutely aces it.

She's two EPs in to her career, and we are treated to a widely varied selection of tunes from both "*Wanderlust*" from 2016 and her latest, "*Conscious*" from 2018.

And this lady certainly knows how to construct a set for maximum impact, from the uptempo numbers '*Honey*' and '*Whirlpool*', through the wistful reflection of her latest single, '*Silhouette*' - issued on her own Grrrr Groannn label - to the tour de force that is '*Hypnosis*'.



Best of all for me though is the stately, elegant trip-hop of '*Hidden*' - her excellent guitar technique is on full display here with ethereal shapes throughout the main body of the song, bearing fleeting reference to Daughter and Warpaint, contrasting sharply with its rapidly accelerating power chord finish - brilliant track.

She's now off to Oz to start a new stage of her musical adventures - exciting times ahead...

As my regular readers (all five of you) will know, I can't stop myself from giving an involuntary shudder when an artist says "...and the next one's a cover...". After this extraordinary set by Shropshire artist **Nikki Rous**, I may never have to do that again.



First and foremost, she's an excellent songwriter and the owner of a truly wonderful voice, powerful, rich and with great nuance. The quality of her own compositions is very high indeed - the glorious, '*I Love You*', the delicacy of '*Colours*' and the folky bounce of '*Stolen*' and '*Mirror*' are rapidly building this into a set to remember.

And there's a reflective, and ultimately positive triptych of songs inspired by her battle with ill-health - "*I wrote these lying flat on my back*", she jokes having come into this gig still recovering from a serious operation. '*Lonely Warrior*' is particularly powerful.

And when the covers arrive, they arrive not with a weary familiarity, but with a freshness and creativity that occasionally has me struggling to identify what I've just heard - it's like a musical version of '*Transformers*'... Portishead's '*Glory Box*' is stark and clear and moving, while Massive Attack's '*Teardrop*' is a revelation in its lo-fi setting. Time's relentlessly pressing ahead unfortunately, but we bring her back for an encore and in the pin-drop silence afforded to all artists by this most appreciative of audiences, she gives the most stunning interpretation of '*Martha's Harbour*' by All About Eve.

I won't be forgetting this performance in a long while.

www.nikkirous.co.uk

Geoffrey Head

Katy Hurt, Kerry Smyth and Chloe Mogg

Tower of Song, King's Heath | Sun 22nd Dec

Well, we've arrived at the last of this remarkable series of gigs for 2019, and it's fitting that the driving force behind them, Stourport singer/songwriter, **Chloe Mogg** kicks us off tonight.



This is such a wonderful set, played out in front of a tinsel covered mic stand - all light and shade, with her full range of talents on show. After that glorious chameleon of a track, *'Blue'* has begun the set (I say that because I've never heard it played the same way twice) we get the first of two new tracks. *'And They Say'* not only reinforces that this is a prolific writer, but the quality is right up there with her best songs. Talking of which, the wistful beauty of *'Serendipity'* would have topped the set, were it not for the last offering.

'It Ain't All That Bad' launches itself across the packed audience with a power generated by a combination of some vigorous guitar work and a vocal carrying some serious bite - the power chord laden outro caps a thunderous addition to her repertoire.

Chloe's first album is scheduled for October 2020 - with such a wealth of material to choose from, goodness only knows what she's going to leave off it - or maybe she'll do a boxed set, we can but hope...

One of the most original and exciting new artists I've seen in a very long time.

Birmingham singer/songwriter **Kerry Smyth** announces her presence in no uncertain terms with the glorious *'Human To Human'*, the lead track off her debut album, *'Away With You'* which she's extensively showcasing tonight. The tremendous reception it receives sets the tone for the rest of this delightful performance.

The album's not actually due out until February but she's got some advance copies with her tonight and such is the quality of the set, that I make a bee-line for the merch stand straight afterwards.



She switches effortlessly between piano and guitar throughout, and also switches styles and pace beautifully. New single, *'Try'* is a winner and the effervescent *'Lemonade'* is pure pop of the highest quality.

But the song that catches my attention most is *'My Old Man'*, a beautifully poignant and amusing tribute to her late father, a larger than life character and bon viveur which, coming coincidentally the day before the anniversary of my own father's death, resonates hugely. A superb track.

There's one more surprise to come as her *'Christmas Song'* turns out to be an astonishing pitch perfect cover of *'Rockin' Robin'* performed with huge gusto. A wonderful set.

It's been a busy and exciting year for **Katy Hurt**, and despite dividing her time between the UK, writing in Nashville and recording in Winnipeg, Canada this is her 166th gig of 2019.

I saw one of the previous ones, when she, Demi Marriner and Tamara Stewart played in the round in Bristol, an event that turned out to be one of my ten *'Gigs of the Year'*, and as soon as she hits her first chords you can see why she's so much in demand.

This is a firecracker of a performance - a dynamic mix of Americana and country rock delivered with an astonishing amount of energy, skill and style - she's a humorous raconteur as well which adds immeasurably to the experience.



Much is drawn from her brilliant *'Unfinished Business'* EP - the tongue in cheek *'Drink'* and the ultra-smooth country of *'Natchez'*, stripped back from the full-band EP versions but lacking none of the punch of the originals, probably being the pick.

But there's a couple of surprises as well, with previews of tracks from her upcoming debut album and intriguingly, a trip into the past with two very good tracks indeed - *'Grown Up'*, which she tells us she hasn't played for a while and even further back for the excellent *'Love You More'*. Apparently, she wrote this track in a car going to a gig when she was twelve years old, and insisted on playing it onstage when she got there - you can't argue with confidence like that!

Her debut album is under construction right now, and on this evidence it could be one of 2020's major releases.

A fine way to complete the Female Voices series for this year, and there's lots more to come...

Geoffrey Head

Smokin' Donuts

The Lamb and Flag, Worcester | 9th Feb

At some point in the Summer of 2018, **Doozer McDooze** ("the underground festival hero") and **Les Carter** (**Carter USM**, **Abdouljaparov**, **Ferocious Dog**), joined forces to create the good time act Smokin' Donuts. The concept is simple... they play one of Les's songs then play one of Doozer's songs, from their huge back catalogues combined, until they get to the end of the set. It's a lot of fun, so they decided to take it on the road. In 2019 they toured, sold out shows, and released two EPs and a Live Album. They are on Tour around the UK throughout February 2020.



Photo by Martin Wackenhier

The 79'ers & The Deep Six

Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester | 7th March

On the back of last year's 40th anniversary of 'Quadrophenia', interest in the Mod movement has seen a healthy resurgence and Worcester is no exception. Revving up its scooter for the visit of two of the Mod scene's favourite bands, **Annie's Burger Shack** hosts Worcester **Mod Night #1**.

Featuring ex-members of **The Chords**, **Purple Hearts** and **Long Tall Shorty**, **The 79'ers** are the boys who made the sound of the 70s mod revival playing the classics they wrote and recorded for a generation. Expect classics like 'Maybe Tomorrow', 'Jimmy', 'On The Streets Again' and many more in an energetic, anthemic set. Supporting them are **The Deep Six** from the Midlands, featuring ex members of **Makin' Time** and **The Threads**, both of whom had strong Mod followings in the 80s. They play 60s influenced Freakbeat and will be playing a range of songs from their releases on Heavy Soul records. Finished off by a set of Mod floorfillers from **DJ Elcoxio** this promises to be a special night, so polish your shoes, button up your shirt and look smart!



DITZ

Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath | 16th Feb

Following the release of their new single, 'Total 90', Brighton-based quintet, DITZ visit the Hare & Hounds, Birmingham on the 16th February. The single, released on UK indie label, Alcopop! Records has picked up support from BBC Radio 1, Radio X, Amazing Radio, Total Rock and many more, and see's the band kicking and screaming their way in to 2020.

Having being championed by UK heavyweights IDLES and SLAVES, the alt-punks are ones to keep an eye as they continue to rise. vGrab your tickets early - We expect it to be a busy one, with drummer Jack Looker being a Worcester native.

Tickets available now through See Tickets for £6 Advance.



Foyer Folk: Dave Ellis & Boo Howard
Number 8, Pershore | Sat1 5 February

Dave and Boo are an extraordinary musical duo who combine top class musicianship with magical songwriting.

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tones of Boo's bass playing, sublime vocals and mesmerising harmonies, this duo create acoustic music at its very best.

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February 2020 at Artrix

This month's mix of music includes the phenomenal voice of **Ruby Turner** on 1 Feb, **Leather and Lace**, a dynamic live show full of Rock anthems on 14 February and top-tribute **George and Elton: Faith & Love** on 27 February.

Comedians heading to Artrix during Feb include **Jane Godley's Soup Pot Tour** on 15 February, **Tom Stadel** on 23 February, **Stand Up For Women** on 26 February and **Dane Baptiste** on 29 Feb.



Fancy taking up a new hobby for 2020? Join in with a workshop at Artrix, including **Theo's Comedy Skool**, **Jewellery Making**, **Drawing** and **Book Making**.

Artrix cinema will be screening all the latest releases, the West End production **Kinky Boots** on 4 & 9 February, Oscar nominated **Jo Jo Rabbit** on 7 & 10 February, plus **Easy Sunday** continues on 16 February with the film 1917 and delicious food and live music in the foyer.

Forghorn Unscripted present An Improvised Murder – a night of stories, laughter, games and...death on 7 February. During half term, families can enjoy **What A Wonderful World** on 16 & 17 February and following the success at Edinburgh Fringe, one-man theatre/music show **Rock n Roll Suicide** performs in The Studio on 28 February.

Details of all events can be found at www.artrix.co.uk

Stephen Fearing & The Sentimentals St Georges Hall, Bewdley | 7th Feb

The ever popular **Music in the Hall** opens its 2020 programme on Friday 7th February with the exciting Canadian **Stephen Fearing**, together with his band **The Sentimentals**.

Stephen was born in Vancouver and grew up in Dublin, where his schoolmates included future members of U2. In 1981 he moved to Minneapolis where he immersed himself in the music scene, learning the fundamentals of song writing and performing.



He has been a professional musician since 1984, since when he's been named as one of the finest songwriters in Canada and has built an international following for his music. He has appeared at Reading Festival and WOMAD.

Music in the Hall spokesman commented that "it is a real privilege and rare opportunity to bring such an outstanding international to our stage".

Stephen is being supported by local artist **Hannah Law**, who will be featuring many songs from her current repertoire. Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets are available on-line at www.thehall-bewdley.org.uk or from Hall Café.

Coming Soon at Artrix

Leather & Lace 14 February

Easy Sunday 16 February, 8 March

Free live music

A Rock 'n' Roll Suicide 28 February

Women In Rock 6 March

Robinson-Stone 7 March

Martin Turner: Wishbone Gold

12 March

90s Legends 14 March

Chris Helme (The Seahorses),

Mark Morriss (The Bluetones) & Nigel Clark (Dodgy)

Deep Cabaret 15 March

Iona Lane 20 March

Soul Manifesto 21 March

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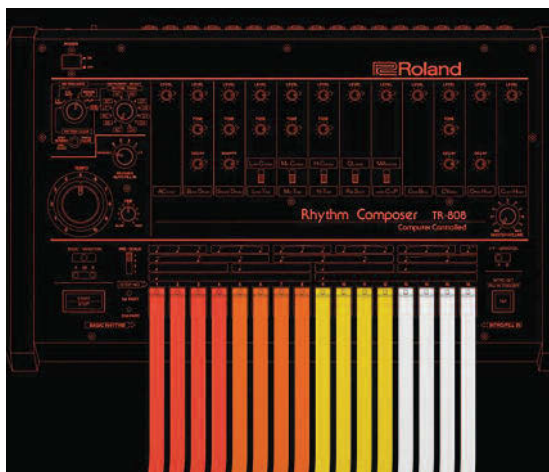
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Innaworx

Electronic Music Workshop & Live Performance Monojack, Rosebud, Inwards, Kurt Moss Worcester Arts Workshop | Feb 21st

'Innaworx' is a new event happening at **Worcester Arts Workshop** in 2020 that explores live electronic music performance and visual art. The workshop will involve performances from local electronic musicians and will give an opportunity for visitors to explore equipment/setup and talk to artists about their processes when creating/performing electronic music. The event provides an opportunity for local electronic musicians with a platform to showcase their work. It also invites the public to come and experiment with creating sounds using synthesisers and drum machines.



Hardwicke Circus

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury | Thurs Feb 13th

It doesn't seem that long ago that I wrote here extolling the virtues of this young band from Carlisle after they turned up at the **POW** one Sunday afternoon. In truth, it wasn't a busy day but the band were sensationally good. Back in December, I nudged all you readers announcing their return on a December Thursday evening. Many responded, the place was full and there was undoubtedly an air of expectancy. Nobody was disappointed and it was a brilliant evening in the company of this exciting young band who appear to be under the guiding eye of that iconic independent label **Stiff Records**. **Dave Robinson**, has been present, a 'roadie' with plenty of nous!

When you consider **Stiff** listed **Elvis Costello**, **Nick Lowe** and **Ian Drury** in the burgeoning years of the label, you have to respect that Dave sees in **Hardwicke Circus** a band of the future. I'm not about to argue and even though I like a bit of breathing space, I cannot deny you all the opportunity to see a band on the rise; imagine if you had been in **The Cavern** back in the day or **The Marquee Club**. There's hints of **Beatles** and **Stones** in these lads from Carlisle: a spark of magic that can't be ignored. If you like a drink, and it is a fine pub, grab a cheap return train or designate a driver and get on over there but leave me some space.



Ruby Turner, 'Love Was Here' Live at The Artrix 1st February

I cannot think that anybody would not have heard **Ruby Turner**. Although many would associate her with **Jools Holland** and his big band, she is undoubtedly a superb vocalist in her own right, steeped in soul, gospel and blues. She brings her show to **The Artrix** in Bromsgrove on the 1st of February where she will be performing songs from her new album alongside many favourites. Her music is influenced by the likes of **Curtis Mayfield**, **Al Green**, **Ry Cooder** and **BB King**: not bad credentials for anybody to aspire to.

Her new album is substantially in the soul camp, slipping in easily with the opening *'Got To Be Done'*, a lovely swinging southern soul, like opening a bottle of **Bolli**, and



watching the foam bubble out. She stirs the mix with a more bluesy approach and two rich Ruby classics in the making: *'Don't Cry Over Yesterday'* and an impassioned, soulful *'Won't Give You My Heart To Break'*. Title track *'Love Was Here'* has Ruby pouring out her soul before the tempo ebbs and flows like life's passions. A bit of Nashville edge is added for the delightful *'Make You Happy'* that brings to my mind **Elles Bailey** and has that touch of magic that makes it irresistible.

The final track, *'Chasing Love'*, is well worth the wait as Ruby drops down the scale for a slow burning, big bluesy ballad, rich and gorgeous with a full orchestral makeover. An absolutely stunning song that emphasises the qualities of Ruby's voice.

Incredibly, this is Ruby Turner's 20th album and as she puts it, *"is the one I've always wanted to make"*. I can't argue with that and if soul is your thing, you would be hard pressed to find a better collection of Ruby's passionate ballads and gutsy grooves. Catch her at **The Artrix**, February 1st.

Graham Munn



What's On?

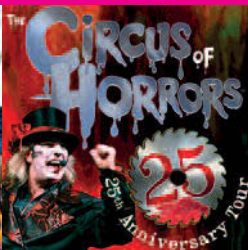
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Bad Manners

Subscription Rooms, Stroud | 29th Nov

The first time I saw **Bad Manners** live, in the early 80s, someone was glassed. The atmosphere at this latest gig was lively, animated but more crucially, well-mannered. Bad Manners' Christmas tours have become synonymous with a good time mentality that organisers of a Disney Parade would be thankful for...

Thankfully, whoever had the job of determining the music choices for the night knew what they were doing; the **Baby Dread** covers band and **Max Splodge** knew their demographic and the shout along anthems were just what the crowd wanted. The Ska tracks played in between acts beforehand- Skatalites, Pioneers, Madness... - ensured the crowd were loosened up by the time the main culprits accosted the stage.



The band, most of whom had performed with the support acts was well rehearsed - better rehearsed than any opening spiel for a political manifesto launch! Picture, the drummer stripped to his waist crouched behind his kit like a rear-gunner in a Lancaster bomber, the guitarist able to rely on his youthful enthusiasm and energy, the three wily entertainers in the brass section who aided and abetted with a mini-symphony of brass and dance routines that were not strictly of the formal variety. Brilliant. All were adorned in shorts, ready for the spirited and sweaty performance



ahead of them, although, deep down they all knew theirs was only a walk on supporting role...

The partisan crowd had come to see and celebrate one man: **Buster Bloodvessel**. A colossus of the Ska scene - admittedly he has lost weight over the intervening years - his staged presence is still able to demand numbers at the box office and this night at the **Sub-Rooms** was no different; the organisers keep filling this venue so they too must be doing something right. Accordingly, Buster, after all these years is still doing right by his supporters. Statuesque in the centre of proceedings, either urging the pub singers on, provoking more photos as his impressive tongue is rolled out like, well, like Bloodvessel's tongue, as nothing absolutely nothing compares, or he is introducing a song that is instantly recognisable by the guitar notes or brass intro: he can't fail!

Failure to appreciate The Manners cause on a crowd does not prepare you for the effect. The first third at the front danced from the start, the second third joined in after three songs and by the time the gig was underway the room was more buoyant than an over inflated bouncy castle as Buster presided over his kingdom. Admittedly, the skankers danced from the waist up where they used to dance from the feet up-with plenty of breaks, just like Buster.

To bust any potential myths the first **Bad Manners'** gig I attended, when a gig-goer was glassed, took place in Thatcher's era during a period in the country's memorable history where there was political division in society and anger had taken over - thankfully, we have moved on. For the right reasons this night at the Sub-rooms was memorable for people glassy-eyed with nostalgia & alcohol, and perhaps due in no small part to politics...they just wanted to dance and party to forget. So lift a glass and raise it to a New Year!

Words: *The Swilgate Scuttler* Photography: *Jonathan Duckworth*

Sunday Session with Julie July

Huntingdon Hall | Sundya 26th Jan

I dropped in for the inaugural **Sunday Session** in the cosy cafe bar of **Huntingdon Hall** which made for a cosy and relaxed way of presenting an evening's entertainment. **Julie July** is hosting the sessions which are planned monthly with a variety of genres being brought into the mix. This evening, Julie, with **Don MacLeod** accompanying, 'warmed' us up with some of her choice songs; Sandy Denny's wonderful 'Crazy Man Michael', brought to mind the fabulous 'Liege and Lief' album from '69 and the stunning Joan Baez song written after her break up with Dylan, 'Diamonds And Rust'.



Carol Lee Sampson, a local artist from Malvern, followed with Don accompanying her piano and vocal lead. JLS were undoubtedly the show stealer's: three acoustic guitarists extracted from their root bands; **Jim Kilpatrick**, **Lester Hunt** and **Steve Hayes**. They proved extremely entertaining, consummate musicians, plucking songs from the air, and 'testing' each other with their choice as the baton was passed around. Americana, Blues, and a remarkable Gypsy Jazz straight from the Hot Club of France, JLS riveted all with their synchronised and syncopated fingerwork, dancing over six string necks and soundboards. Brilliant, and worth the visit in itself.

The next **Sunday Session** is planned for February 23rd, with **JB's Backwater Road Band**, and supported by singer songwriter, **Jinder**.





Stroud Wassail

On a dismal, freezing cold day, nothing could dampen the enthusiasm of the Morris troupes, mummers, musicians and poets that brought this wonderful event to life.

A celebration of tradition, folklore, nature and the old religions, all woven together by that uniquely glorious sense of British eccentricity that we love so much.

Long may it continue...

Geoffrey Head



Northsyde The Harlington, Fleet, Jan 4th

2019 brought the sad news of the loss of **Jules Fothergill**, who, alongside Lorna, formed the heart and soul of rock blues band **Northsyde**. Jules was a truly beautiful person, and is greatly missed by many. It's impossible to imagine such a huge loss to **Lorna**, Jules' soulmate. Jules had been mentoring the upcoming young guitarist **Marcus Praestgaard Stevens**, and in late August at the **Old Bush Blues**, Lorna announced that Northsyde would go forward, as Jules would wish them to, with Marcus stepping up to the stage.

On the 1st of January I took a call from **Matt Williams**, of the **Old Bush** and long supporter of **Northsyde**. He'd booked a coach to take fans, his regulars, down to Fleet for the first gig with Marcus on board. There was a seat if I wanted to come along, and though I did not relish the long return journey, I did want to see the rebirth of this great rock band. Grateful for the opportunity, I 'signed up'.

Supporting **Northsyde**, at Lorna's request, were the **Paddy Maguire Band**, recently rechristened the **Hooson Maguire Band**, out of respect for partner and vocalist **Jenna Hooson**. This was destined to be a hell of a ride, Jenna is not known for holding back, and she was in fine form alongside Paddy. A wonderful nod to Etta with "I'd Rather Go Blind" slipped through to a mash of "Muddy Water Blues", and a tribute to Joplin with Jenna powering out, "Oh Lord won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz". Hooson Maguire closed off with a "Little Help From My Friends", quite literally, as the stage filled with 'extras'.



The significance of being at the Harlington cannot be overlooked, as the venue of Jules' last live appearance just the year before. We raised our drinks in his memory as **Northsyde** stepped up, with Marcus taking lead for a wonderful instrumental intro. Ian's bass punches out, with Hayden driving the rhythm alongside the addition of some really nice organic keys, bringing a new dimension to the sound. And, of course Lorna joined them, complete with woolly hat.

The band quickly settled into their funky, jazz, rock blues mode; Marcus playing fluidly, the Gibson's honeyed sound cutting through the gritty blues of "Northside". Lorna worked the stage, her bandmates breaking out in splashes of funk before Jules presents "Walking In The Air Tonight". The reverb dial turned to its stop, as Lorna's voice filled the hall, at one with her soulmate's presence.

Marcus plays with a maturity that defies his years, but still, "Hard Shoes" to fill! Ian's bass thundered underneath, punctuated by Hayden's strikes and Lorna's shredded lyrics, dark and menacing.

The band announced forthcoming albums to be released this year, and split into two halves, of songs featuring Jules and Marcus - something to look forward to and a fitting memorial milestone. Lorna gave "The Story Tellers Daughter" to Matt to appease his call for "Chicken Shit". Cutting, hard-driving rock announced the sting of "Whipping Post", with Hayden striking hard to a staggering closure.

It was time for a rolling mix of guests joining in, as the jam kettle was stirred, Lorna signed off with a gospel-driven "Shine", a mash up of "Smoke Stack Lightning" and a sweet "Spoonful". A blistering "Stormy Monday" followed, before Lorna stepped aside. The night would see the stage fill with Paddy's band joining the melee, but the return coach awaited, so I levered myself away from the Harlington, re-joining the gang from **The Old Bush** to make our way home. My thanks go to Matt, host of **Old Bush Blues**, for enabling my attendance to see the rebirth of the mighty Northsyde.

Marcus had performed beyond his years; he has been well mentored by Jules, and the band still rock, big time. Lorna's hard driving vocals are as strong as ever, the spirit is with her. All our thoughts are with Jules, greatly missed, but his soul shines through in the band. They are listed for Upton Blues this year, don't miss them.

Graham Munn



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Northsyde

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Bearfoot & The Super Rhythm Kings

Big Wolf Band with Zoe Green

East West Maxwell Street

Stuart James Band

Wayne Martin

The Robert Hokum Review

Hollie Rogers

Trafficker

Shaw Thing

Pethers and Friends

Claude Bourbon

James Oliver Band

Rodney Branigan

Sugar Mama

Ben Poole

Jules Benjamin

Five Field Holler

Dove and Boweevil

Cryin' Out Loud

Steve Brookes

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Old Bush Blues 2020

— 21st, 22nd, & 23rd August —

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Weekend with camping £60 • Weekend £50 • Day £30

Old Bush Blues 2020

— 21st, 22nd, & 23rd August —

The Brains, The Strays, Red Hot Riot, Road Zombies Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham | 8th Jan

Distractedly, I pulled off my driveway fully aware that I had a cut-up body in my trunk. My caramel coloured automobile was lashed relentlessly by the rain as I made my way in the most treacherous of conditions, with a genuine sense of trepidation, into known bandit country. As I grew closer, my imagination, fuelled by building terror, projected giant tarantulas scurrying alongside my besieged sedan. As I drove over the racecourse hill two flying saucers appeared on the horizon and attempted to divert and destroy my journey to a parallel universe where the kitsch, a DC comic landscape and colourful 1950s caricatures were the norm: the alliterative **Frog and Fiddle**...

Conservative Cheltenham was not ready for the headliners, shockabilly trio **The Brains**, and they took full advantage, helped in no small part by front-man – **Rene** – who strode off the set of a Tarantino B-movie and stole the “god damn show”. As he glowered and glared his guitar growled as he switched between rhythm and lead punctuating the songs with chords and notes that bounced off the cavernous walls and ceilings and shook our very souls. The original tracks – stand out tracks: “*Misery*” and “*Your Dead*” – matched the covers: “*Enjoy the Silence*” and “*Lovesong*”. The compelling fusion made for a set list that was simply an aside to the comical banter, impromptu toilet breaks, cod irreverence shown to Presley on his birthday and the urgent appeals for shots and street medication. “*God damn it*”, the Brains even managed to provoke some arm dancers and frenzied bopping... on a college night!

The Strays clearly attended college and studied the Rockabilly genre to degree level: the qualifying structural quiffs passing with first class honours. Thankfully, the ever popular Strays have found their home, a home where they rightly belong: the stage. Taking to the stage with their own take on bubble-gum rockabilly the effect is immediate and as catchy as any political slogan. Live, the Strays are all about “getting it done!” but with style – and unlike our PM, without a hair out of place. The band worked the room harder than an aging teacher striving to prove they can still do it! This band are hell bent on rockin’, the rockabilly tunes, tauter than the grip of the only autograph hunter that collected Elvis’s autograph after he had set down briefly at a Scottish airport all those years ago- are welcome ear worms. And let’s not forget that **Stela Sonic** can hold a note even when adopting her highly energised stage persona. Bravo. Visually, the iconic white guitar, blood red fringed jacket, exaggerated kiss curl, teased teal blue quiff and obligatory colourful 50s influenced tattoos all create a true spectacle.

The Manics were fond of stating that they were the most visually exciting band of the 90s; the voyeurs lucky enough to have rolled a lucky dice and chanced upon the **Red Hot Riot** live would have something to say about that declaration. **Scott McParland’s** ability to swing his double bass around as if he were wrestling it into submission – impressive! **Ricky Delaney’s** guitar has been surgically fused to his pelvis and the end result is a model of rockabilly expectation. The band’s youthful –goofiness belies their musical prowess. “*Oh, boy*” can these young shavers perform an addictive song and all the while grinning with incredulity and enjoyment. Be warned, the Riot is no roustabout outfit looking for a cheap payday; as the name suggests they are highly flammable and an absolute riot when given the chance...

Chances are that supporting bands of this calibre is not easy. **The Road Zombies** offered up their own brand of affable-billy and kicked off proceedings with their understated approach. The



bassist was not even fazed by his equipment failure. The highly personal song about mental illness and the impact on family and friends was a thoughtful inclusion and hints at a deeper appreciation of song-writing requirements.

I was required to trudge in the rain back to my brown Peugeot, parked some distance away (to save on parking) and all the while I kept thinking about the night’s Hoedown but niggling at the back of my mind I knew that the cut-up body of our Christmas tree was still in the boot of my car and would need taking to the recycling centre. For the uninitiated, it would be easy to dismiss these Rockabilly bands as simply recycling a genre of music that first provoked and shocked in the 1950s, however, for those that attended this evening and for the band themselves, this is the new wave of new wave Rockabilly and the new improved “oven-ready” version is a paradigm of chrome-plated upcycling!

nicholas.burford@virgin.net *The Psychobilly Cat*

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Gig listings

2nd Feb - Tyler Massey Band

9th Feb - Smockin Doughnuts

16th Feb - Humdrum Express

23rd Feb - Ellisha Green

3rd March - Riché





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Saturday 01 February 2020

Our Man In The Field
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Ruby Turner
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Melvin Hancox Band
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Lounge Toad
The Great Malvern, Malvern

Jay & Eli
The Swan Inn, Evesham

The Blues Brothers Show
Cross Keys, Malvern

Little Rumba And Talulah's Goat. Furthermore, DJ Daniel Jaye - in Aid Of Foodbank
Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford

Paul Jones & Dave Kelly
Number 8, Pershore

Richard Ryan, Bruce Thompson
Aston Fields Social Club, Bromsgrove

Off The Grid
The Golden Lion, Bromsgrove

Autumn
The Woodland Cottage, Redditch

Tone Locked
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman
The Bridge Church, Redditch

The Strangers
Astwood Bank Club, Redditch

R X P T R S, I Cried Wolf, Skora, Indifferent Engine
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Moon 2
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Texas Tick Fever
The Ale House, Stroud

Lost Wave Music, The Vanilla Pods
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Gareth Lemon
The Botanist, Cheltenham

The Subterraneans
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Fearless Scoundrels
Bar 57, Pershore

Supernova
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Sister Sandwich
Cookley Social Club, Cookley

Devon Mayson
The Outside Inn, Evesham

Mister Wolf
Charlton Kings Social Club, Cheltenham

Texan Peacocks
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Jay & Eli
The Swan, Evesham

Dan & King Rich
The Queensway, Stourbridge

Terry Walls
The Brick Room, Worcester

Good Knight Hall
The King Teddy, Gloucester

Better Than We Look
Baker Street, Gloucester

Minnie Birch, Robert Lane
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Ruben Seabright
The Alma Tavern, Worcester

Thrillbillies
Dumbleton Village Club, Tewkesbury

The Institutions
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Ed Sheeran Tribute
Pike And Musket, Gloucester

Martin Simpson
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Jaged Edge
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Alula Down, Ellis Green, Neil Pulling On His Organ
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Rock For Heroes
Courtyard, Hereford

The Fabulous Bordellos
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

5:15 Band
The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Rubble
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Mumbo-Jumbo
St Peter's Arts Church, Malvern

Chimp On A Bike
Bar Severn, Upton On Severn

Union Of Strings
Green Dragon, Malvern

Rock Metal Launch Night
Brickworks, Hereford

Misanthropic Existence, Parson City, Eliminate The Middle Class
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Aaron Cook
The Swan Inn, Barbourn, Worcester

Ason Pegg
Imperial, Hereford

Little Rumba, Talulah's Goat & DJ Daniel Jaye
The Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford

Out To Lunch
The Secret Garden Pub, Hereford

Chronicles Of Zee
The Red Man, Kidderminster

Helta Skelta
The Sportsman, Kidderminster

The Pontiacs
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Cream Limousine
The Cricketers, Worcester

Banzai Pipeline, Redwood
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Sister Sandwich
Cookley Sports And Social Club, Kidderminster

Rockaway Record Fairs Record & Cd Fair, 10.00-16.00 - £1
www.Facebook.Com/Rockawayrecordfairs/, New Venue
Hereford Baptist Church, Hereford

Wrong Jovi (Bon Jovi Tribute)
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Red Hot Boogie
The Market Theatre, Ledbury

King Mantis
Shooters Bar, Ledbury

The Fireballs Uk
The Chestnut, Worcester

Sunday 02 February 2020

Mike Francis (6pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Tyler Massey Trio
The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Young Drummer Of The Year 2020
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Merrymaker & Friends
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Jack Read & The Shaders
Oddfellows Arms, Redditch

Black Dyke Band
The Sub Rooms, Stroud

The Breakfast Club
Kitsch Coffee & Wine Bar, Stroud

Ray Mytton
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Ideas Of Noise Festival (2Pm)
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Benjay
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Ben Jones
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Matt Waddoups & Pete Mann
Bottles, Worcester

Liz And Karen
Red Lion, Evesham

Black Rabbit (4pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

The Ferrets (5pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

IVW: Uncover Presents Lazy Day, The Other Dramas, Wych Elm + Chevy Chase Stole My Wife
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Tuesday 04 February 2020

Our Man in The Field
Smokey Joe's, Cheltenham

Chiaroscuro Quartet
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Pete The Hat's Great Big Gig in The Sky
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Lindsay Martin & The Nouvelle House Band
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Wednesday 05 February 2020

Tyler Massey Trio
The Plough, Worcester

Jack Flint
Galgos Latino, Stroud

The Troubleshooters
Café René, Gloucester

The Shameless Brothers
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Blackthorn Buskers
Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Thursday 06 February 2020

Our Man in The Field
The Canteen, Bristol

Bob Marley's Birthday Bash Ft Arcadia Roots
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Silenzio
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Dave Sharp
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Ewan Pollock
The Oil Basin, Worcester

Country Superstars – Dolly Parton And Friends
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The Red Voice Blues Band Thurs 6Th Feb
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

The Whipjacks, The Desperados, Sam Draisey, Kringo Blue
Worleys At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

Reggae Nights With Ital Sounds
The Swan, New Street, Worcester

Jake Martin, Jess Silk, Boz
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Kidderminster Jazz Club with Matheus Prado Mato Septet
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

Friday 07 February 2020

Dead Dads Club
The Swan, New Street, Worcester

The Cuginis
Drummonds, Worcester

Bromsgrove Concerts: Karolos
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Lutras, Word Of Mouth, Echo Gecco, Jake Of Diamonds
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Dave Laine Tribute To Droitwich Winter Gardeners
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Ray Mytton Band
Bluebell Inn, Malvern

The Humdrum Express
The Retreat, Bewdley

Ma Bessie And Her Blues Troupe
St James' Church Welland, Malvern

Endorphinmachine -Tribute To Prince
The Iron Road, Pershore

Dolly Mavis
No.3A, Bromsgrove

Earl
Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Getrz, Bombs For Breakfast, Dead Agents
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Q
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Verity White, Hunt Us, Elkaphat
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Paul Henshaw, Dan Booth
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Brian Black
The Merryfellow, Cheltenham

Bombs For Breakfast
The Cotswold, Cheltenham

Hope Or Glory
Albion House Social Club, Cheltenham

Frazer Lepford
The Cheltenham Stable, Cheltenham

Rocketman
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

James Baker
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Alex Chapman
The Outside Inn, Evesham

The Strays
The Blue Bell Ryall, Upton Upon Severn

John Otway, Wild Willy Barrett, Small Dogs Bite
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Funky Mojos
The Linden Tree, Gloucester

Down For The Count
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

42 SLAP FEBRUARY

Stevie Mac
The Bell, Tewkesbury

Mother Vulture
Café René, Gloucester

The Re-Covered Band
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Rhythm Slingers
Tall Ships, Gloucester

The Shy Teds
The Deans Walk Inn, Gloucester

Gene Gerie & The Lemon Squeezers
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Luke De-Sciscio
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Singled Out
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

The Strays
The Bluebell, Ryall, Upton On Severn

Iain Ballamy Quartet
Left Bank, Hereford

Neil Ivison
Red Lion, Evesham

Sammy Jo
The Red Man, Kidderminster

The Atlantics
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Chevy Chase Stole My Wife
The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

Worcester Roots Club
The Firefly, Worcester

Emotion in Music
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Rob Buckland
Royal Porcelain Works, Worcester

Faithful City Shows Presents: Space, Skewwhiff
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Little Bluebird Concert - The Lost Unicorn
Elmslie House, Malvern

Saturday 08 February 2020

The Reflections
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Ziggy Paul Band
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Lewis
The Great Malvern, Malvern

The Usual Suspects
Cross Keys, Malvern

Blues in Pershore All Day -Ash Wilson, Sayer & Joyce, Big 1pm)
The Iron Road, Pershore

Remi Harris & The Electric Beat Combo
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Mister Wolf
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The One Love Band
The Oast House, Redditch

The Blues Sisters
Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Fisherman's Friends
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

The Skastuds
Rocklands Club, Redditch

Bristol Classical Players – Jennifer Pike Plays Elgar
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

The Usual Suspects
The Old Sticky Wicket, Redditch

Lastelle, Homeland, Everything Is Teeth, New Depth
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Rich Dickinson's Driving Force
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Danadra
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Apathy Avenue, Boxcat, Zilch
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

The Rhythm Collective
Queen Vic, Stroud

Headsticks
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Mzleading
The Woodman, Parkend, Lydney

Monkey Jam
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

The Bon Jovi Experienc
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Holder & Smith Quartet!
Rous Lench Village Hall, Evesham

Jibberfish
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Witcher
Bar 57, Pershore

Jack Forster

The Brick Room, Worcester

The Music Of Tchaikovsky

Tewkesbury Methodist Church, Tewkesbury

The Melvin Hancox Band

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Tower And Country

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Gaz Brookfield

The Fountain Inn, Gloucester

Arcade Heights

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Chameleon

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Harbottle And Jonas

Courtyard, Hereford

Sax Appeal

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Head Honcho

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Mumbo-Jumbo

Clent Village Hall, Stourbridge

Journeyman

Green Dragon, Malvern

Kick The Cancer with Kick The Clown, The Lightweights,

Beware The Bears, Dead Dads Club

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Tone Tanner

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Dan And King Rich

The Bear And Wolf, Kidderminster

Facestealers

The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Karl Memphis As Elvis

The Red Man, Kidderminster

Reload

The Cricketers, Worcester

The Follies

The Cavalier, Kidderminster

Aaron

The Alma Tavern, Worcester

Fret Wolf

Wolverley Sports And Social Club, Kidderminster

The GTs

Francesca's, Worcester

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www.facebook.com/Rockawayrecordfairs/

Castle Street Methodist Hall, Abergavenny

The Murmur

Cookley Social Club, Kidderminster

Sams Town (Killers Tribute)

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Garrington T. Jones, John Snocken

The Press Room, Leominster

Sunday 09 February 2020

Vo Fletcher (6pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Echo

Pin Vaughan's Tapas & Cocktail Bar, Redditch

Dan Booth And Paul Henshaw

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Tom Poslett

Little Vic, Stroud

Malvern Hillbillies

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Terry

Nottingham Arms, Tewkesbury

Ruben Seabright (5pm)

The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

TTP Acoustic

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Dan Greenaway

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

William Howard Piano Recital – Great Barn, Hellens

Courtyard, Hereford

Paul Chief O'Neil

Red Lion, Evesham

William Howard - Piano Recital

Hellens Manor, Hereford

Sam Baker

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Smokin' Doughnuts

The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

James Oliver Band (4pm)

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Tuesday 11 February 2020

Legends Of American Country Show

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Wednesday 12 February 2020

Craig Ogden

The Priory Church, Malvern

Kevin Montgomery, Kelli Jones, Gregor Philp

The Boat Shack Cafe, Bromsgrove

Ruben Seabright, Emilie Eleonore

The Brick Room, Worcester

The Shaggy Dog Raconteurs

Café Rene, Gloucester

The Lost Notes Wed

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

The Ultimate Classic Rock Show

Swan Theatre, Worcester

Vicki Swan And Jonny Dyer

Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Thursday 13 February 2020

Jimmy Carpenter

The Iron Road, Pershore

Jazz Club - Simon Spillett Quartet

Smokey Joe's, Cheltenham

David Mowat

SVA, Stroud

Simon Hall

Tripele Belgian Beer Cafe, Worcester

Orchestra Of The Swan Present: Mozart in Buenos Aires

Courtyard, Hereford

The Best Of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons

Swan Theatre, Worcester

Gordon Giltrap

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Hardwicke Circus

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Friday 14 February 2020

Ewan Pollock

The Swan, New Street, Worcester

The Score Band

Drummonds, Worcester

Leather & Lace

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Hot Chilli Blues Band

Bluebell Inn, Malvern

Sean Jeffrey

The Great Malvern, Malvern

Orchestra Of The Swan: Mozart in Buenos Aires

Number 8, Pershore

Live Music

The Ladybird Inn, Bromsgrove

Dan Greenaway

No.3A, Bromsgrove

Tom McConville & Tony Wilson

Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Joanne Dodds

The Holly Bush, Redditch

CSO – Mediterranean Sunshine

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

The Bluehound

Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Ed Strong, Quiet Pills

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

TMYK, Living Dead Stars

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Scratch

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Jake Martin, Jess Silk

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Hair Of The Dog

London Inn, Cheltenham

Pink - Beautiful Trauma

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

6 Out Of Ten

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Hundred Watt Club

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Ruben Seabright

Chesters Mexican Bar & Restaurant, Worcester

The Hush

The Doctors, Gloucester

King Street Turnaround

Café René, Gloucester

The Test Pilots

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Melvin Hancox Band

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Wing Walkers

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Switch

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Dave Onions
Red Lion, Evesham

Supernova
The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

The Blink 182 Show, Jimmy Ate World (Blink 182 + Jimmy Eat World Tribute)
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Saturday 15 February 2020

Built For Comfort
The Chestnut, Worcester

Tyler Massey Trio, Connie Gordon, Theone Mae Dawes
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Elton John Tribute
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

The Beki Brindle Band
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

The Corduroy Kings
Cross Keys, Malvern

The Supersuckers, The Hip Priests
The Iron Road, Pershore

Foyer Folk: Dave Ellis & Boo Howard
Number 8, Pershore

Strong Enough - Cher Tribute
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Chaos
The Railway, Redditch

Nicholson
White Hart Inn, Redditch

An Evening Of Marvin Gaye
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Bellevue Days, Weatherstate, Viva La Bear, Fiction Piece
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Bex Jazz Trio
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Black September
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Maverick Angel, Kamino, Everything Is Teeth
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

The Bad Dads
The Ale House, Stroud

Southside
The Old Neighbourhood, Stroud

Stanlæy With Ishmael Ensemble
The Goods Shed, Stroud

Spitfire
The Old Courthouse, Cheltenham

Bebe And The Trojans
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Flash - A Tribute To Queen
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Version
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Visitation
The Valkyrie Bar, Evesham

Jon Eselle
The Hare And Hounds, Wollescote, Stourbridge

Fret Wolf
The Swan, Evesham

Steve Lovett
Dumbleton Village Club, Evesham

Roop Tera Mastana
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Frankie's Guys
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Steve Lovett
Dumbleton Village Club, Tewkesbury

Freefall
The Pilot Inn, Hardwicke, Gloucester

Steve Gibbons & Tom Martin
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Flats And Sharps
The Globe, Hay On Wye

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

Dire Streets 'Brothers in Arms Show'
Courtyard, Hereford

Youzoo
The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Ronrunner
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

A Night Of Live Music For Alex 3.0
Left Bank, Hereford

Hills Angels
Green Dragon, Malvern

Just Adam
The Shack Revolution, Hereford

Andy Marlow
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

44 SLAP FEBRUARY

Logicaltramp
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Gary Priestley
The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Ruffnecks
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Follicles
Cookley Sports And Social Club, Kidderminster

Madness Tribute Night Ft. Baggy Trousers
Velvert Lounge, Worcester

Simon & Garfunkel Through The Years
The Market Theatre, Ledbury

Uncover: Legpuppy, The Pink Diamond Revue, Vinny Peculiar
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Sunday 16 February 2020

Salt Road (6pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Vo and Tyler
The Three Kings, Hanley Castle

Fairport Convention
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Issy Winstanley (Midday)
The Old Courthouse, Cheltenham

Jack Cattell
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Follicles
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Humdrum Express
The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Spitz
Red Lion, Evesham

The Good Time Blues Boys (4pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Immy And The Boatmen (5pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Monday 17 February 2020

We Love Little Mix
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Tuesday 18 February 2020

The Jelly Roll Brothers
Smokey Joe's, Cheltenham

John Pearce, Remi Harris, Tom Moore, Ian Matthews
Yardbird Arts Jazz & Blues Club, The Hatch, Eardiston, Tenbury Wells

Fleecey Folk: Alden Patterson And Dashwood
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

Wednesday 19 February 2020

Uphill And Still, Jon Lepp
Café René, Gloucester

Any Wicket
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Angela's Sunset (CD Launch)
Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Thursday 20 February 2020

Vinny Peculiar, Chris Hemingway, Neil Richards
Smokey Joes, Cheltenham

Palace Drum Clinic
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Great Balls Of Fire
Palace Theatre, Redditch

The Derek Paravicini Quartet
The Sub Rooms, Stroud

Evade/Escape, in The Cards, Huni, Hell-Ios
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Daisy & Ivo
Smokey Joe's, Cheltenham

Gareth Lemon
The Botanist, Cheltenham

Sean Jeffery
The Oil Basin, Worcester

Surprise Attacks Presents:, The King Dukes, The Jericho Racks (Blues Set), Ruben Seabright
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Lady Sings The Blues
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Dr. Feelgood
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Mark Stevenson
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Friday 21 February 2020

Forty Blue Toes
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Counterfeit Stones
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Uncover: Odmansbox, Dead Dads Club, Muir, Abstract Fox
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Quo Motion - A Tribute To Status Quo

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Josh Edkins

Bluebell Inn, Malvern

The Girl From Tiger Bay, The Dame Shirley Bassey Story

Palace Theatre, Redditch

James Reidy

No.3A, Bromsgrove

Ian Parker

Winchcombe Live At White Hart, Winchcombe

Northern Soul Live

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

The King Dukes

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Dr Feelgood

The Sub Rooms, Stroud

Buds., H. Ngm. Nm, Quiet Pills, Cuffs, Time Of The Mouth

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Jake Martin, Jess Silk

The Swan, Cheltenham

The Bob Porter Project

Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Who Knows Didley, Everyday Heroes, The Autumn Killers

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Broken Jaw, Panic Switch, Sydney Fate

2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Shenanigans Showcase

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Different Music

Chapel Arts, Cheltenham

Leo

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Bruno Mars - Bruno

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

English Fiddle Weekend

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

The Dark Horses

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Fret Wolf

The Gigmill Pub, Stourbridge

The Clone Roses

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Ruben Seabright

The Swan With Two Nicks, Worcester

The Worried Men

Café René, Gloucester

Gloucester Folk Trail - Weekend

Various Venues, Gloucester

Kemastree Set

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Shaggy Dog Raconteurs

The New Inn, Gloucester

Jo Baldwin Band

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Langkamer

The Globe, Hay On Wye

The Interpreters

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Follies

The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

The Lost Chord

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Rod Barlow

Red Lion, Evesham

The Rads

The Golden Cross, Hereford

The Bohemians

Swan Theatre, Worcester

Stone Mountain Sinners

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Fabulous Bodellos

The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

The Secret Cabaret

Drummonds, Worcester

Gotta Groove

The Red Man, Kidderminster

Innawor: Inwards, Rosebud, Kurt Moss, Monojack

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Saturday 22 February 2020

The Leon Daye Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

Vintage Inc.

Lowerlode Inn, Tewkesbury

Michael Jackson & Jackson 5

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Oh My Drag! The Mad Hatter's T Party Misty Monique, Isabel

End, Luna Lakes, Miss Demeanor McCall, Manly Mannington

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Monasteries Grief Ritual, MTXS, War Master

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Counterfeit Stones

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Deanna Wheeler, The New Arkansas

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

5:15

Cross Keys, Malvern

Dead Dads Club Acoustic

The Great Malvern, Malvern

Floyd in The Flesh

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Legend

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Witcher

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Pale Riders

The Black Tap, Redditch

Quill

Rocklands Club, Redditch

John Broomhall

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Crème De La Résistance

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Retro Junction

Queen Vic, Stroud

Mestizo Blues Collective

The George Inn, Stroud

Red Light Rebels, The Desperados Uk, Thieves, White Crosses,

Lesser Known Character, Up Shot, Last Safe Moment,

Everything Is Teeth (2pm)

Smokey Joe's, Cheltenham

The Unravelling Wilburys

The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

Planet Loco

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Johnny Boy

Cheltenham Civil Service Football Club, Cheltenham

Killerstream

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Miles2Darby

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

The Bon Jovi Experience

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

Vintage Inc.

Lower Lode Inn, Tewkesbury

Gloucester Folk Trail - Weekend

Various Venues, Gloucester

Gasfoodlodging

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Toby

The Pilot Inn, Gloucester

Folk Blues And Beyond

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Alden Patterson And Dashwood

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Becki Brindle Band

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Microbaby

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Sax Appeal

Green Dragon, Malvern

Fret Wolf

The Swan Inn, Barbourn, Worcester

RP McMurphy

The Secret Garden Pub, Hereford

Dire Streets

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Mode Depeche

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Gilly Bishop

The Sportsman, Kidderminster

Midnight City Soul Band

Cookley Sports And Social Club, Kidderminster

The Fezz (A Homage To Steely Dan), Lost Cat, Reuben Pearce

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Blackheart Orchestra

The Market Theatre, Ledbury

Sunday 23 February 2020

Dirty Old Folkers (6pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Aldbourne Band

The Sub Rooms, Stroud

Passion

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

Nameless

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Bryn Thomas

The Albion, Tewkesbury

Gloucester Folk Trail - Weekend

Various Venues, Gloucester

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

Sound And Vision Art And Music
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Tom Reading & Tom Southern
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Us 3
The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Clive Live
Red Lion, Evesham

The Frith Piano Quartet
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Sunday Sessions
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Ellisha Green
The Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Will Killeen (5pm)
The Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Warren James Band (3pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Tuesday 25 February 2020

Simon Deeley's Blue Haze
Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Cheltenham Songwriters Guild
Smokey Joe's, Cheltenham

Fleecey Folk: Josie Duncan
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Evesham

Wednesday 26 February 2020

Leon McCawley
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Gaz Hughes Sextet Plays Art Blakey
Pershore Town Football Club, PERSHORE

Ruben Seabright, Ewan Pollock
The Brick Room, Worcester

The James Oliver Band
Café René, Gloucester

Rea River Roots
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Jacqui Dankworth & Charlie Wood
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Chump, Bombs 4 Breakfast, More Tba
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Daria Kulesh & Marina Osman
Carpenters Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Thursday 27 February 2020

Gary Hal
The Boat Shack Cafe, Bromsgrove

Julie & Steve Wigley
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

George And Elton: Faith And Love
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Dave Onions
The Plough, Worcester

Tina Law & The Garry Allcock Trio
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

The Fureys
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Rodda's Hairy Craic
Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

The Syamisenist
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Alex Chapman, Mark Illingworth
Aquavitae, Cheltenham

Smokin' Pilchards
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

O'Hooley & Tidow 'Gentleman Jack' Tour
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Mille May
Tripelb Belgian Beer Cafe, Worcester

The Loved & Lost, Winchester, Hipflask Virgins, The Jericho Racks, Ruben Seabright, Selina Fever
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

Crossroads Blues
The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

Rock & Roll Revolution
Courtyard, Hereford

Friday 28 February 2020

Polly Edwards
The Swan, New Street, Worcester

The Dick & Bob Show
The Boathouse, Upton-Upon-Severn

Chalky Martin
Drummonds, Worcester

Bromsgrove Concerts: Orchestra of St John Chamber Ensemble
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Uncover: Odmandsbox, Dead Dads Club, Muir, Abstract Fox
Annie's Burger Shack, Worcester

46 SLAP FEBRUARY

Cory's Angels
Colwall Park Hotel, Malvern

The Trevor Burtonless Band
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Jim Smith
Bluebell Inn, Malvern

Lewis Boulton
The Great Malvern, Malvern

NWOCR Showcase Night
The Iron Road, Pershore

The Reflections
The Swan Inn, Bromsgrove

Crooners
Palace Theatre, Redditch

Blast Bomb
The Queens Head, Redditch

Abba Tribute Night
Abbey Hotel, Golf And Spa, Redditch

China Bears, The Joey Bill, Yard Arms, Krooked Tongue
Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Buzz Holly, Spitfire, Whippasnappa
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Swamp Pigs
The Ale House, Stroud

Bobby West
Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Beaver & The Foghorns
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Mike Allen
Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Jonny Cole
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Risky Galore
The Old Restoration, Cheltenham

The Foo Fighters (Tribute)
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

The Fabulous Bordellos
Sadlers Brewery & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

The Juggernauts
The Maverick, Stourbridge

Pete Harrington
Nottingham Arms, Tewkesbury

Chimp On A Bike
Canterbury, Tewkesbury

Genesis Connected
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Tyler Massey
Chesters Mexican Bar & Restaurant, Worcester

The Strays, Hot Rockets
Café René, Gloucester

Aaron Cook
The Bell, Tewkesbury

The Murmur
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Ji & The Rainbirds
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Jazz At The Tower
THE TOWER OF SONG, BIRMINGHAM

Dr Cornelius
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Dick And Bob Show
The Boathouse, Upton On Severn

Foophonics
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Fracture Uk
The Golden Cross, Hereford

Rubble
Hogarthshogariths, Hereford

Phoenix
The Monument, Hereford

Sass Brown
Red Lion, Evesham

The Bridge
The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

Natalie Anne
Eagle & Spur, Cookley, Kidderminster

Shanghai Shuffle
The Cosy Club, Worcester

Captain Starfighter & The Lockheeds
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Saturday 29 February 2020

Groovyhead
The Chestnut, Worcester

Clearwater Creedence Revival
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Rickkie Lavel 60's Night
The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Akervinda - Swedish A Cappella Group

Colwall Ale House, Malvern

Malvern Roots Club 3rd Year Celebration - Roots Inspiration

Newtown Club, Malvern

Rainbow Rising - A Tribute To Ritchie Blackmore

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Elles Bailey

St James C Of E Church, Malvern

Woo Town Hillbillies

The Pavillion, Colwall, Malvern

Mel & Him

The Great Malvern, Malvern

Scopyons, Syked, Wizards Of Oz

The Iron Road, Pershore

Harvington Duo

Number 8, Pershore

Krazylegz

The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Craig Seeney, Mick Monro

Aston Fields Social Club, Bromsgrove

Facestealers

The Golden Lion, Bromsgrove

Immy And The Boatman, Ruban Seabright

The Dragon Inn, Worcester

The Britannia Beat

The Oast House, Redditch

The Elo Experience

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra

Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Raising Cain

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Marsh Starlings

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

The Clone Roses, The Oasis Experience, Rook And The Ravens, The Tribe

Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

Hacksaw, The Setbacks, Second Hand Arms Dealer, Drunk In Charge

Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Mzleading (5 Piece Covers Band)

The Eagle Inn, Ross-On-Wye

Blast Bomb

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Mister Wolf

The Lamplighter, Stratford Upon Avon

Rattlesnake Jake

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

Lucy Horwood

The Brick Room, Worcester

Witcher

The Swan, Evesham

Special Kinda Madness

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

John Coghlan's Quo

Watson Hall Tewkesbury, Tewkesbury

29 Free Spirit, Barreo

Baker Street, Gloucester

Middy

Dumbleton Village Club, Tewkesbury

Amy Baker & The Rhythm Sisters

Walls Club, Gloucester

Bit's And Splits

The Deans Walk Inn, Gloucester

The Unconventionals

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Country Superstars Experience

The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

Tom Artin Celtic Soul & The Stompies

The Tower Of Song, Birmingham

The Mighty Vipers

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Henry Parker, David Ian Roberts, Afternoon Gig! 3Pm Start

Babar Cafe, Union Street, Hereford

Doc Rock

The Wheelhouse, Upton On Severn

Tom Davis

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

The Ray Mytton Band

Green Dragon, Malvern

The Summits

Imperial Inn, Hereford

Travelin' Man - The Ricky Nelson Rock And Roll Show

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Blind Lemon

Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

Kev From The Murmur

The Weary Traveller, Kidderminster

WAW Live Lounge

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

The Underdogs

Cookley Sports And Social Club, Kidderminster

Anita & The Moody Tuesdays

The Firestation, Cheltenham

Rockaway Record Fairs Record & Cd Fair, 10.00-16.00 - £1www.Facebook.Com/Rockawayrecordfairs/irs/
Imperial Hotel, Stroud**Akervinda - Swedish A Cappella Group**

Colwall Ale House, Ledbury

Higher On Maiden (Iron Maiden Tribute)

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Sleuth, The Lightweights, More Tba

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

One2Many

The Ducker Bar, Leominster

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

Until 2nd Feb Drawn from the Wood, Robin shaw exhibition

Artrix Bromsgrove

Until 5th Feb Chris Ludlow - 'Pictures Around Pershore'

Pershore Number 8

Until 18th April The Magical World of William Simmonds:

Puppets & Paintings Exhibition, Museum of Gloucester

Until 15th Another Country , Bridget MacDonald -

The Courtyard Hereford

Until 11th March The 80s Toybox for 30 Somethings,

Pershore Number 8

1st Alternative Artists Market Heroes Worcester**1-27th Leominster Photographic Club exhibition**

Leominster, Tourist Information Centre

2nd Chinese New Year Celebrations, Guildhall, Worcester**3rd-1st March** Phoenix Nova: Reflections, Worcester Arts Workshop**4 Feb - 1 Mar** Into Spring 2020 with 5 Cubed Art,

Artrix Bromsgrove

6th-26th Rivers of the World, Pershore Number 8**7th-13th Garden Art Exhibition**, Holloways, Suckley, Worcs**11th Cleopatra, the most Womenly of Women, the most Queenly of Queen. The Arts Society Worcester, Tudor Grange**

Academy £7.50 on door, 7:30 theartssocietyworcester.org.uk

14th The Umbrellas of Cherbourg (PG), The Courtyard Hereford**15th Love the Arbo - free community light festival, 6-8pm,**

Arboretum district, Worcester

19th Meadow Arts: Art House Open Lecture Series, Jack Evans.

The Art House Worcester

20th until March 22nd, Herefordshire Life Through A Lens:**The Derek Evans Exhibition**, The Courtyard Hereford**20th until June**, Eden & Microplastics Rain Down From the Sky,

2 shows at Edgar Street Gallery, Worcester

21st Priscilla Queen Of The Desert Worcester Arts Workshop**21st Innaworkx** - a new event exploring live electronic, music

performance & visual art. Worcester Arts Workshop

26th Sorry We Missed You, The Hive, Worcester**28th/29th Banff Film Festival**, Forum Theatre Malvern**29th Experimental Arts workshop**, The Print Shed, Hereford

**We have removed the regular
Music Sessions/Open Mics to:
www.slapmag.co.uk/sessions/**

**Upload your gig listings at:
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arts@slapmag.co.uk**

THE MARR'S BAR

FEB
MAR 2019/20



Saturday February 1
Wrong Jovi (Bon Jovi tribute)
£7.50 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday February 2
IVW: UnCover presents Lazy Day,
The Other Dramas, Wych Elm,
Chevy Chase Stole My Wife
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday 7th February
Faithful City Shows: Space + Skewwhiff
£16 in advance

Saturday 8th February
Sams Town (Killers tribute)
£10 in advance £13 on the door

Friday February 14
Blink 182 Show, Jimmy Ate World
(Blink 182 + Jimmy Eat World tribute)
£5 in advance £6 on the door

Saturday February 15
Uncover presents: LegPuppy, The
Pink Diamond Revue, Vinny Peculiar
£6 Advance, £ on the door

Saturday February 22
The Fezz (a homage to Steely Dan),
Lost Cat, Reuben Pearce
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Friday 28th February
Captain Starfighter & The Lockheeds
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday February 29
Higher on Maiden (Iron Maiden tribute)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Thursday March 5
Vinny Peculiar, Robert Rotifer,
Wes Dance
£5 in advance £6.50 on the door

Friday March 6
The Leylines
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Thursday March 12
A Rock N Roll Suicide
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday March 13
Uncover: The Earnest Spears
1st Birthday!
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Saturday March 14
The Machine Rages On (RATM
tribute), Liberty Artillery
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Friday March 20
DIIO (Ronnie James Dio tribute), Primal
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Saturday March 21
James Taylor Quartet
£20 in advance

Saturday March 28
Mused (Muse trib), White Noise Cinema
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night - FREE entry

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