

SLAP

Issue 36

Apr 2014

MAGAZINE



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SLAP

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SLAP MAGAZINE

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Hi and welcome to a jam packed SLAP issue 36 in which we bring you news and views of many art & music events throughout the Shires.

We have interviews with bands, artists, filmmakers and event organisers as well as features on artists, musicians and venues. So plenty to get your teeth into.

As if that isn't exciting enough, we at SLAP are thrilled to be launching our brand new fabulous website which should be live by the time we go to press! Please visit us now at www.slapmag.co.uk – we would love to hear your feedback. The site will allow you to upload your events easily and quickly, get information on advertising, look at back issues, SLAP TV and information on how to contribute.

On a sad note we were sorry to lose a dear friend in Oliver Roche who has been entertaining the crowds down at the Lamb and Flag with his accordion as part of the Monday Night Folk Sessions for many years, he will be sadly missed by the locals and musicians alike.

That just leaves me to remind you about Record Store Day! Please support your local record shops like Rise and Carnival on 19th April.

See you soon!

Ed Band



Cover photography by Toni Charles
Vault of Eagles

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LISTINGS IN CONJUNCTION WITH:



SLAP SNIPPETS

Lisbee Latest

Known as the 'English Rose With The Eight-string Guitar' and five years after launching her music career it looks like being the best year ever for Lisbee Stainton - originally from Pontrilas near Hereford! She's just completed her biggest UK tour to date - also calling in at many BBC local radio stations on the way to play impromptu sets. The multi-instrumentalist played Malvern Rocks last year (same gig as Loyd Grossman!) and is a regular on 'Sh-undays' at the Marris Bar. She's been championed in recent years by Tom Robinson, Seth Lakeman, Joan Armatrading and Paul Carrack - who described her as the 'new Joni Mitchell' - not bad at all!!

Roots Nozstock Manoeuvre

Hip hop legend Roots Manuva has been confirmed as the first headliner for this year's Nozstock: The Hidden Valley - organiser Ella Nosworthy said that 'they were more excited about announcing him than any other act before'. The theme for the off-beat event at Rowden Paddocks near Bromyard will be going prehistoric and rolling back time to The Land That Noz Forgot...



Snodfest Returns

After a year's break organisers have confirmed that the family-fun Snodfest will take place at Upton Snodsbury on Saturday 13 September - and they are looking for 'great local bands and singers' to join the line-up with 10 hours of music planned on two stages - more information at snodfest.com

Worcs Fest Charity Chosen

Worcester Music Festival has announced that Worcestershire Young Carers has been picked as its nominated charity for this year's event from 29-31 August at venues across the city. The Droitwich based organisation supports seven to 25-year-olds who look after physically disabled relatives and key worker Neil Phillips said that WMF's choice of them was a 'real boost and that he'd jumped around the office' when he heard the news...

WTF Buttons!

Experimental electronic duo Fuck Buttons have announced the first festival and shows they'll play in what looks like to be a busy summer - both in the UK and abroad. Andrew Hung and Benjamin Power both grew up in Worcester - and have confirmed dates at the Barbican in London, shows in Belfast, Liverpool and Leeds - with festival appearances in France, Athens, Iceland, Germany, Belgium and Poland - more details of the ATP Recordings act at atpfestival.com



Broken Oak Due at Fest

Broken Oak Duet duo Tom Morgan (baritone guitar) and Howard James Kenny (drums) have been added to the bill of the second part of this year's ArcTanGent festival - which runs from 28-30 August at Fernhill Farm near Bristol - joining their Task In Hand team-mate Sam Knight AKA Theo who was announced last month!

Crows Collect Award

Ledbury folk-fusion outfit The Roving Crows have added the Spiral Earth Best Live Act award to their recent list of gongs - joining the FATEA Band Of The Year title they won in January and honours last year from the Irish Music Awards and Exposure Music - the foot-tapping five-piece are currently on tour to promote their second album Deliberate Distractions

Lakefest Additions



Lakefest has added The Lightning Seeds, Shed Seven, Buzzcocks and Doctor Et The Medics as headliners for the family-friendly event at Croft Farm Waterpark at Bredon's Hardwick on 8-10 August - acts previously announced include Fun Lovin' Criminals, Snap and Lee 'Scratch' Perry - with more still to be confirmed!!

Doggie Doin's

Dogs of Santorini have released the video for their first single Doggie Style. The video features the canine trio as Greek gods who arrive by thunderbolt on a sunny beach and perform for the sun seeking holiday makers they find there. With a cast of thousands and spectacular special effects, the video can be found on YouTube with a search for Dogs of Santorini. Check it out.



Iron Road Band Battle

Evesham's Iron Road Rock Bar announces its Battle of the Bands competition for 2014 and invites entries from local and regional bands. The competition will start on Friday May 9th at 8.15pm and will run for 15 weeks in total.

The rules for entry are simple, bands must be able to play 35-45 minutes of original music and will need to play one cover song. Interested bands should contact Muttley at the Iron Road Rock Bar via the Facebook page and must be able to provide preview material on CD or by mp3 download. Preview material should consist of two original songs.

The competition will be run on a weekly basis with two bands playing per evening. Winners will be decided by a panel of judges, not by crowd reaction or crowd voting. Band order will be decided by the toss of a coin. Any band not at the venue by 8.30pm will forfeit their place.

Closing date for entries is Friday April 25th 2014 with the 16 bands invited to take part being notified within 1 week along with the Round 1 schedule. Bands must accept and acknowledge their ability to play as scheduled within 1 week or forfeit their place. 16 bands will be entered into the competition based on the quality of the preview material. Round 1 will run for eight weeks, two bands per week, each week the winning band will receive £50.

The eight winning bands will move to Round 2 (quarter finals), the same format will apply, two bands per week for four weeks with winning bands receiving £75.

The four winning bands from Round 2 will move forward to the semi-finals. These will be played over two weeks, two bands per week, with each winning band moving to the final and receiving £100.

The last two bands will contest the final on August 22nd with the winning band taking the title and a prize of £1,500.

BLUE

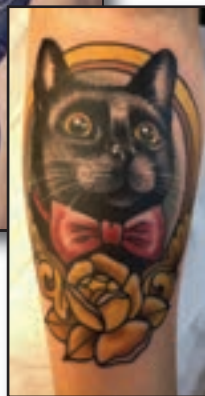


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Clík Clík

Clík Clík Collective has a new website! So please do come and take a little look and see if there is anything fanciful that you require! From pop up performances, photo booth frolics, visual arts and music, and booked now for this year's **Green Man**, **Wychwood**, **Swingamajig** festivals (and fingers crossed Noz!) Clík are getting very excited about the future!



Clík Clík Collective is proud to announce the promotion and facilitation of some exploratory, engaging music installations along with some impromptu pop-up musical experiences for this year's fabulous **Worcester Music Festival**. Hoorah! Much planning and creative idea swapping being had!

Clík Clík will also be seen promoting their wares at this fabulous and festival style wedding fair (below), with a roaming performance from **Collective 43**, **Ed Steelefox** spinning some tunage, **Sarah Edwards Spare Room Arts** doing some fun kids activities and me doing some photo booth shenanigans!

www.clíklíkcollective.com

Need unique and creative wedding ideas?

Then look no further! **Tie the knot**, is a unique and eclectic wedding carnival where you can meet the suppliers, taste tasty goods, live performance and entertainment ideas and generally get to peek at some of the finest & coolest wedding inspirations in the land!

It's FREE entry- so if you're a bride or groom looking for something a bit different, utterly creative and bloomin' amazing for your wedding day a whole day of inspiration awaits you!!! **Elmore Court Elmore GL2 3NT** from 11am-4pm.

www.facebook.com/TieTheKnotWeddingCarnival

43 Experiences

On Saturday 22nd March **Collective 43** were spotted doing an impromptu gig outside the Guildhall in Worcester as part of the entertainment for the French Market! Luckily the rain didn't dampen anyone's spirits, with both the crowd and musicians having fun; brightening up a miserable Saturday afternoon with a collection of classic songs done in typical 43 style!

Collective 43 have a spectacular performance approaching this month, at the theatrical **Madame Moonshine's Speakeasy** (voted 1st best thing to do in Birmingham by 'Design my night.com'); a night of 1920's influenced impiety! The roaring 20s was reborn in a secret location on February this year. This time **Madame Moonshine** will be bringing another night of secret



debauchery to those with loose morals between Birmingham's newest alternative venues, **Next*Door** and **Spot*light**, and guarantees a flamboyant experience. Dressing up preferred! Tickets are from £10 and upwards for what will be a very different kind of evening! 8pm-3am.

www.facebook.com/madamemoonshine

www.facebook.com/theCollective43

The lights go out in Malvern

I was gutted I couldn't get to see the cutting edge show *'Going Dark'* up at Malvern theatres in March, (great news however that it was a sell out!) but I did manage to get a few words from **Steven Wilson** about a very unique piece of theatre.

*"Going Dark is part of a programme from **Fuel Theatre** which places top quality and innovative theatre across the country. Malvern Theatres have been selected as a venue in the West Midlands and it was great to have **Sound and Fury's Going Dark** at the venue. Commissioned by Warwick Arts Centre this was a brilliant and moving piece which linked the answers to the Universe to a devastating story of a man going blind. Performed often in complete darkness, this was a brilliant show, dazzling and moving. Great to see Malvern Theatres being the venue of such innovation"* Steven Wilson. County Arts Officer.

Cube Weekends

Malvern Cube is developing its weekend events aiming to provide a stack more creative, musical and theatrical stuff for the community of Malvern to get their teeth into. There is a spectacularly artistic night coming up on April 19th with **Laetitia Sadier**, singer from the iconic band **Stereolab**. With special guest **Howard James Kenny** this is one not to be missed! malvernlive@gmail.com. Tickets £8 in advance, available from

malvernlive.ticketsource.co.uk
www.malverncube.com



Books, Books, Books!

For you literary minds out there, come along to The Lamb and Flag Book Club, where new members are always welcome! This month they will be discussing Margaret Wood's 'A Handmaid's Tale' on Tuesday April 8th at 8pm. FREE. Lamb & Flag, The Tything Worcester.

Artist talks at the Hive



As mentioned in this month's artist feature with Tobias Hickey, there are now some monthly artist talks from guest illustrators happening at The Hive! These are a

brilliant opportunity to get to hear how an artist's mind works and what motivates them. All are welcome to these free events, so what are you waiting for? The artist this month is Laura Carlin on Thursday 3rd April at 1.15pm in the Studio at the Hive.



Grayson Tapestries

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is the first venue in the Midlands to present 'The Vanity of Small Differences' by Turner Prize-winning artist Grayson Perry. The exhibition is comprised of a series of six large tapestries (2m x 4m) which tell the story of class mobility and the influence social class has on our aesthetic taste. This is a fantastic opportunity to see the fabulous Mr Perry's work locally and runs until 11th May 2014. www.bmag.org.uk

New Work by Collective Unconscious

Archeopolis – New Ways of Being

"We've been making performance art since about 2010 that challenges both ourselves and our audiences to essentially open up and connect with others in different ways. To talk, to touch, to feel. At first we considered this to essentially be an exercise in storytelling – our aim was to create experiences that took people out of their everyday lives for a while – there was little consideration of the effect of what we were doing. But as we began to challenge ourselves in relation to the scenarios that we were creating, we realised that we were also growing more confident, opening up, our perceptions of our bodies and identities were changing. We were more happy with ourselves and that correlated directly with making the kind of work that put us in situations that were initially uncomfortable but forced us to ask why we felt like that."



Essentially we were getting the opportunity to practice things, intimacy, openness, that we could so easily shy away from in everyday life.

We've created Archeopolis to try to capture and foreground that process. It's a long term project that will create numerous performance manifestations of different sizes and forms over the coming years. It's also an unfolding novel read to music. The idea is to create these spaces where the rules of society are removed and performers and participants are allowed to try on new ways of interacting with one another. In these spaces the potential impact on our every lives is severely reduced and with it, any true notion failure. It becomes about exploration and experimentation to see what fits and what doesn't and, when you enter back into reality, you can choose to use that newly acquired knowledge or not.

We want this work to step outside the established art spaces and dwell in the 'real' world, at parties, in the enclaves and backrooms of pubs and clubs, at festivals and alongside bands, in abandoned houses or warehouses or in forest clearings. Some experiences might last for minutes, some for days."

Mark Ellis-Collective Unconscious

If this peaks your interest then you should check out www.archeopolis.wordpress.com

www.facebook.com/collectiveunconsciousuk
collectiveunconsciousuk@gmail.com



EASTER BEER FESTIVAL

17th-21st APRIL 2014

**20 REAL ALES
10 CIDERS &
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Thursday 17th
**BEER PREVIEW
TASTER NIGHT**
Beards and sandals
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Sunday
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"THE BEST PUB IN STANFORD BRIDGE"

THE BHG

Hello Slappers! It's Melo here from The BHG. I have been asked to write this month's column so here we go. Firstly I want to start by thanking artist Paul Hill for his outstanding exhibition, 'Pulling faces when diggin for piglets.' We have had so many visitors this month, with some even saying it has been their favourite exhibition to date (Ooohh controversial Melo- Coz).



March at the gallery has been a busy month with all the usual antics plus some added extras in the form of me hiding some paintings around Kidderminster town, then posting clues online for people to go and find themselves a free a piece of art. It has been a bit of a giggle and I plan to do this again, in the near future, so watch this space (as the cool kids say).

radio DJ too!) Paul Smith, authentic festival paraphernalia from Nozstock and a selection of art from local friends too. The Exhibition itself will open from 7pm with acoustic campsite tunes in the gallery and later downstairs the Cracked Actors will be playing live. Also throughout April we will be holding regular events including:

Life Drawing on Thursday 3rd April, with a female Model (btw, last month's two model pose was a brilliant success and we will look forward to doing it again-Coz). The session is £4 per person and starts at 7.30pm

The **Swap&Sew** will run as usual on Monday 14th April with **Waste2Want** demonstrating her unique style of Rag Rugging and the usual up cycling frenzy too. The session is 33 per person and you can take home as much swap as you can carry!

Twisted Melon Art will also be returning on Saturday 26th April with the stencil workshops running from 2pm at a cost of £5 per person. All under 18s will need to bring along an adult

Finally, **CALLING ALL ARTISTS!** Our annual paint jam, **Above Boards** will be held on the weekend of Saturday 16th August and we are starting to confirm our shortlist.

If you would like to get involved in this event or any others please either **ADD** our Facebook page **CALL** 01562 861870 or **EMAIL** gallery@boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk

Many Thanks *Melo & Coz*



Summer is nearly here and, in the spirit of the festival season, we are holding a festival inspired exhibition entitled, 'Squatting in Hedgerows - The Art of the Festival'. The exhibition is to feature paintings by Black Country Gaz, an installation by our good friend (poet, artist and



Cracked Actors

MOUTH MUSIC
acoustic spoken word & music night
Tuesday 8th April 2014 8.00pm
DIALOGUE NIGHT
Road Kill
with writers
David Galcutt & Nadia Kingsley
Bleeding Hearts
'dance to it, listen to it, can't ignore it!' Blazine
MC Sarah Tamar
open mic sign-up from 7.30
Admission £3 (free to performers)
The Boars Head | www.facebook.com/mouthandmusic | in association with
www.mouthandmusic.co.uk | Kidderminster Creatives
at Worcester Tower, Kidderminster, DY11 1EW
www.boars-head-kidderminster.co.uk
Tel: 01562 861870

ANDY O'HARE - A Soft-nosed Approach To Blatant Self-Promotion...



When walking down Worcester's High Street nothing's more likely to send me scuttling to the other side of the road than the approach of a manically grinning clip-board-armed individual inviting me to participate in some 'market research' - now while I know that there's one or two sadistically-minded folk who see this as an opportunity for a bit of 'sport' at the researchers' expense - inventing increasingly fantastic and improbable replies to their questions - well everyone needs a hobby of some sort - but to a limited extent I think that maybe a bit of well-directed market research could well benefit your own musical ambitions...

A very good start can be made with the humble clipboard itself - attach a sheet of paper inviting people to join your 'mailing list' at the very next gig you play - after all they went to see you play and most probably enjoyed your set enough to want to keep posted on where you're playing next - that's a very good foundation to build your fan-base on!!

I used to work for a well-known mail-order company - and the first question salespeople would ask callers is where they'd seen the advert for the product they wanted - so that we'd know which adverts were generating the best response and offered the best return on advertising costs - you don't need to go that far - but it might be an idea if on your clipboard sheet you have a column 'where did you hear about the band and/or this gig' - useful information for both you and the venue!!

Which brings me to advertising your band and the gigs you play - you've probably got a FB page which you'll keep pretty much up to date - and you'll probably also have a SoundCloud/ReverbNation/Bandcamp or iTunes site as well featuring a selection of your music to either preview or purchase - fair enough! However nothing looks worse than your old website (probably YouTube) which you abandoned three years ago - if it's no longer in use - just use it to redirect visitors to your current active sites. It's easy enough to buy a .com or .co.uk website and also use it as a one-page 'shop window' for your act - again just be sure to make it look reasonably smart with hyperlinks to your active websites - and it should only require occasional maintenance...

But it's gig advertising that seems to be a problem - and that's only seemed to be getting worse recently!! There nothing worse for a gig-goer like myself getting back from the pub or club and hearing about a gig that I'd really like to have gone to but was only advertised by a mass tag on FB at 8.30pm that same evening - by which time I was packing away my little notebook and pen and heading for the door...

Ideally you need to give about 7-10 days advance notice of your gigs - any more than that and it's likely to have been forgotten about - and excitedly posting about your gig at the Frog & Ferret in mid-October is really a waste of time - if you're as organised as me (not very!) then you'll plan for gigs about 2-3 days in advance - most often less than that!

I find that at the moment I have to check at least four or five separate listings to get gig info for any particular evening - first port of call is NotJustSauce (or Broad Sheep) - more on these in a second - then our own BBC on-line Gig Guide, this fine organ that you're currently holding in your hand, Facebook and occasionally the Worcester News 'What's On' daily listings - and the sorry fact is that there's very little correlation in what's posted on each...

Easily the best way to get your gig advertised is to list it yourself on NotJustSauce - as these listings are also used by BBC H&TW's Introducing Gig Guide and of course SLAP magazine itself - but do bear in mind that you need to get the event listed on NJS about 10 days before the end of the month for inclusion in the next SLAP issue - as I'm assuming that you're better organised than I am! You can send the gig info to SLAP direct but it won't then also be included on NJS and the BBC - why do it three times when once will do the job? Hereford giggers should get themselves listed in Broad Sheep's comprehensive compilation of events - again this will be automatically picked up by the BBC Intro show...

Many acts/bands will probably create a FB event for their gig and send out a bunch of invites - think it's probably a good idea to do this for every gig you play and once you're in the habit of doing it - it'll become a second routine - but think myself about a week's notice is just about right for this - but please do clearly state date, time and location (including town and postcode) - amazing how often these are omitted and the invites immediately plagued with a flurry of 'where's this at?' comments...

Like NotJustSauce - you can post gigs yourself to the Worcester News 'What's On' guide that'll appear both in print and on-line - but do remember that these sites are moderated - so offensive band-names are a no-no - well probably for the WN anyway!!

A couple of words of comfort though - the one thing I really learned when working for the mail-order company is that advertising actually does work!! Perhaps it's maybe taken for granted a bit now - as it's cheap (well really just the time involved) and so easy to do - you're in the music trade and nobody minds a bit about you shouting your band's name from the rooftops - try it and see the results!!!

AOH

(comment/message me at so-sue-me@live.co.uk)

ps - probably a tad on the late side - but probably still worth getting in those summer festival applications if you haven't done so already - there'll always be last-minute cancellations and organisers like to have a backup list of acts to call on - best of luck!!

Worcester Music Festival

OVER 1,000 ACTS APPLY TO PLAY AT WMF 2014!

God Save the King at Monroes



Over 1,000 bands and artists of all kinds of genres, from acoustic to trip hop, have put themselves forward to perform at Worcester Music Festival in a record year for applications.

Festival chairman Ant Robbins said the standard was higher than ever before and the festival's band of promoters had a real challenge ahead of them. *"Applications are now closed and picking the*



The Firefly

acts to fill around 250 slots at venues across the city over the festival weekend is going to be an exciting, but difficult, job, the standard is that good this year.

"We'd like to thank the every band and artist who applied and hope that those who are selected for the final line-up enjoy the experience as much as our acts from previous years."

Applications by numbers (at the time of writing)

- 1,096 acts have applied
- 164 list their genre as 'alternative'
- 204 mention BBC Radio
- 42 are from outside the UK
- 61 have members under 18

To stay up-to-date with plans for WMF 2014, visit www.wumufest.co.uk, Facebook and follow the fest on Twitter @worcsmusicfest.

Mel Hall



MUSIC AT ARTRIX





GEORGE MONTAGUE - 10 APRIL

BRIDIE JACKSON - 16 APRIL

STOMP & HOLLER - 18 APRIL

ERIC ANDERSEN - 19 APRIL

ROVING CROWS - 25 APRIL



SWINGING 60s - 3 MAY

BABAJACK - 10 MAY

CARA DILLON - 15 MAY

CHANTEL MCGREGOR - 17 MAY

CHRIS WOOD - 21 MAY



JULIE FOWLIS - 26 MAY

LARRY MILLER - 29 MAY

KAST OFF KINKS - 31 MAY

THEA GILMORE - 4 JUNE

VOODOO ROOM - 6 JUNE







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worcester arts workshop

Music Hooray! It's that time of year again – and the first Lazy Sunday of the year on 13 April, 1 – 6pm promises wonderful things with a stunning line up –

2pm Sadie Fleming

3pm Tina V

4pm Christof Jennings (of Jenna Varndell's band – a highlight from last year)

5pm Hannah Dallas and Richie Yeates

We've also been talking to the lovely peeps from Worcester Music Festival and are already getting excited about our part in their August extravaganza...

Exhibitions Now on – until 19 April – in the Café Gallery, WAW is proud to present a show of excellent work by its own tutors – Andrew Clacher, Antony Blakemore, Molly Rozier, Adam Daffurn, Kay Mullett (and her group!) and Christine Baker. A variety of subjects, styles and media, complementing each other beautifully. Please drop by to admire.

Coming soon! Work from the singular world of Speakersfive and Andy Roberts. Exhibition starts on 22 April in the Café Gallery, and will be fun...

Easter Activities for children will run from Monday 14 until Thursday 17 April and include shadow puppets, Easter crafts and family ceramics... ALSO new classes from All Sorts of Performing Arts – featuring Pop Dance, Party Time, Musical Theatre and Cheerleading – different age ranges and times – phone for details and book now!

Courses All our children's and adults' courses will recommence after the Easter hols, and we're pleased to announce additions to existing courses in Digital Photography, Painting and Drawing, Watercolour Painting, Pottery and Ceramics, Oil Painting and Life Drawing:

– **Introduction to Printmaking** will teach a wide range of methods – monotype, collograph, relief, drypoint, engraving etc – and experimental sessions on how to combine processes in single prints. Taught by Mike Alison, Chair of Birmingham Printmakers, it promises to be excellent.

– **Introduction to Portraiture** – an in depth look at the fascinating aspects of portrait drawing and painting with Andrew Clacher.

– **Antony Blakemore's Creative Art Workshop** – exploring drawing and colour through paint – with reference to art history (and no doubt contemporary work).

You are welcome to stitch along with Crafts in the Café on Tuesday mornings from 10am, or Practical Patches in the studio classroom on Thursdays from 2-4pm.

Vamos Theatre Company are running a mask-making course at WAW on Saturday 12 April, from 10am – 5pm. Phone them on 01905 312921 to book now.

Clare Harker



by Andrew Clacher

Meanwhile – repairs and redecoration are still ongoing, so bear with us until we can get our performance programme up and running. Apologies in the meantime...

Call in to WAW or phone Call 01905 25053, email info@worcestersartworkshop.org.uk for more details.

LAZY SUNDAY
13TH
APRIL '14
 1pm - 6pm

Tina V
Sadie Fleming
Christof Jennings
Hannah & Richie

WORCESTER arts workshop
 21 Sansome St, WR1 1UH
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MUSIC47

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Book Preview - Mike Sanchez; The next chapter:

'It started with a few borrowed 45s, then came the quiff and some knockout threads.'*

Born in London to Spanish parents in 1964 Mike Sanchez moved to Bewdley aged 11, his parents having left the racially tense capital of that era. He attended Bewdley High School, where he bucked the 70's pop trend and was drawn to the rock & roll of the late 50's and early 60's, along with school pals Ian Jennings and Mark Davies. In woodwork teacher Richard Rogers they found their mentor; also known as Ricky Cool, a well known Midlands harmonica, sax player and band leader. Mike along with Ian and Mark formed the *Rockets*, the George Hotel in Bewdley served as their base, where a chance visitor, Robert Plant heard them, starting a life long friendship with Mike. Plant introduced them to guitarist Andy Silvester (ex Chicken Shack), who new Ricky well. The result was the forming of *Ricky Cool And The Big Town Playboys*, they were later to join Robert Plant on stage at the NEC. Ricky left the band in '86 for family and career reasons, leaving Mike to take over as front man.



Mike's path also crossed with that of Mick Fleetwood leading to a US tour, returning later for the opening of Mick Fleetwood's LA Blues Club. Friend Peter Richardson (of 'Comic strip' fame) introduced Mike to Jeff Beck, an association with the band, *Big Town Playboys* resulting in the album '*Crazy Legs*', a tribute to Gene Vincent, in particular his, guitarist Cliff Gallup.

'When the music is pumping, the keys are jumping, the sweat is pouring and the rhythm really does satisfy your soul: that is Mike Sanchez.'*

Mike has played alongside Gary Brooker (Procol Harum) and Andy Fairweather Low, indeed Mike took over from Gary, joining Bill Wyman and his Rhythm Kings. Imelda Clabby, better known today as Imelda May, found a home with Mike and his band as their very stylish vocalist, before she moved on to perform with her own band, the rest is history.



Today Mike plays extensively throughout Europe, in either solo, 4 piece or 6 piece form. His recent marriage to Sarah, who also sings with the band, and their son Louie has brought a new dimension to Mike's life.

Now if all that has taken your interest, you may like to know that there is an imminent release of a Jesus Miguel Sanchez biography, authored by Michael Madden, '*Mike Sanchez Big Town Playboy*' is due for release coinciding with Mike's tour of the UK in May.



Mike has led a fascinating life to date, worked with some iconic artists, (Robert plant, Gary Brooker, Jeff Beck, Albert Lee, Bill Wyman, Imelda May, Jools Holland, Steve Walwyn, Eric Clapton, Mick Fleetwood,

Peter Green, Clive Deamer, Georgie fame, Andy Fairweather Low) and influenced many more. He is one of Europe's premier rock & roll, rhythm & blues, and boogie woogie exponents, a phenomenal pianist and larger than life 'front man', I can only suggest you go grab a copy as soon as they are out there, it will, I'm sure be a fascinating read.

(* Taken from Michael Madden's biography of Mike Sanchez)

The forward is written by Led Zep legend, and long standing friend of Mike's, Robert Plant.

by Graham Munn

Review - Lucy Ward | The Fleece Inn Brefforton | March 16

The Fleece Inn could well be one of Worcestershire's best kept secrets, certainly in terms of music venues go, the 15th century pub is home to a stunning converted barn that in recent years has hosted some of the biggest names in folk and roots music, delivering intimate, live acoustic shows to rapt, true music fans from across the county. In recent times, Radio Two favourites Jackie Oates and Martin Simpson, are just two of the names that have trodden the boards of The Fleece and by the time you read this, Radio Two Folk award nominee Will Pound will have mesmerized the barn with his harmonica fronted roots band.



Lucy opened with (end of the world ballad) *The Last Pirouette*, taken from the *Single Flame* album begun as a solo acapella piece that instantly send tingles down the spine as Lucy's voice entranced the audience, soon the violin of Joy and Lucy's own guitar joined the mix to spellbinding effect and from that moment on, we knew we in for a truly memorable and mesmeric performance. From there we were treated to a combination of emotive originals such as Icarus, the heart-wrenching *Shellback* (an ode to Lucy's grandfather) and the equally affecting *Ink* and bawdy traditional folk numbers with the likes of *The Blacksmith*, the downright filthy sing-a-long John Prine classic *Let's Talk Dirty In Hawaiian* and *Lord Randall* (Peter Bellamy).

The set was a joy from start to finish, with numerous highlights throughout from a stark acapella *Regina Spektor* cover to the passionate rallying cry of the protest song, *For The Dead Man* complete with an entire audience hollering back the vocal hooks whilst Lucy finished in a near frenzy.

Lucy Ward (and Joy Gravestock) will be touring as a full band with the likes of Belinda O'Hooley and Heidi Tidow among others and I highly suggest you try to catch a show, you won't be disappointed.

As for The Fleece Inn they have a number of intriguing (and intimate) performances well worth taking a look at to see what's on in the coming months.

Will Munn

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The weekly 'Live!' show on Switch Radio (107.5 FM) is a celebration of the best live acts Birmingham and the surrounding area has to offer. This episode was a veritable variety show of spoken word, magic, comedy and music in the stylish surroundings of The Sun at the Station in Kings Heath.

The night kicked off with a bit of spoken word from Tom Roberts, a local lad with plenty to say about the good side of the bad side of Brum. To follow was the dubious magic of Jay Islaam, who insisted on calling all poor audience participants "Jeff" and shouting "sausages" at random intervals. Slapstick? Yes. Funny? No. Magical? Most certainly not. On with the show and girl-boy voice-guitar combo Shaake. Nothing original but pleasant enough and a welcome respite from Islaam's wet whoopee cushion of an act. Time for a Timmy Taylor's Landlord and a cheeky poke around the nicely refurbished venue before the bohemian-looking trio High Horses took to the stage. An original mix of lilty three-part harmonies against a jangly mandolin made for an interesting listen and left me feeling warm inside. My highlight was the beautiful 'Waiting So Long'. These guys can be found lurking around the Jewellery Quarter most nights and will be playing nearby at The Yardbird on 20th April. Recommended.

Next up was the Worcester-Brum assemblage of beautiful people wielding big brass instruments and even bigger balls, Collective 43. The Collective started with a bang by unveiling their new tune 'TNT', an explosive outpouring of self-destruction and rebirth. This was a tantalising glimpse of a stream of new material soon to be washing along the streets and into the venues of rundown towns across the land. Their shows are always a rejuvenating experience but before youthful purity is restored they like to take you on a



journey to iniquity. Filthily good baritone vocals on 'St. James Infirmary' and hypersexual renditions of 'Fever' and 'Summertime' were all delivered with expert sensuality and polka dot dottiness to an appreciative crowd. The percussive sounds of a mic'd up typewriter provided perfect punctuation in a roaring set that concluded with 'Misirlou', made most famous by Pulp Fiction. Better than a \$5 shake any day. See them at Swingamajig in Digbeth on 4th May, if not before.

To conclude came the artful arsenal of Call Me Unique. A name like that leaves a lot to live up to but the female solo singer-songwriter didn't disappoint - a human loop pedal? Who'd have thought it?! Unique was impressive enough without having to fill her patter with "So, I just supported Beyonce..." or "When I met Justin Timberlake...". Her spontaneous, audience-generated 'Badger Song' won me round.

You can only listen to Switch Radio on the old wireless if you're in the north of Brum. Worcestershire folk can listen anytime at switchradio.co.uk. 'Live!' goes out weekly but is recorded once a fortnight. Entry to live recordings is free. See [facebook.com/liveartsradio](https://www.facebook.com/liveartsradio) for details of future shows.

Martin Wilkes

The Longwall & The Barside Space

Lucy Tibbets comes to the Evesham Arts Centre with a selection of works taking you on a journey from County Kerry to Hunstanton, and the Cotswolds. Lucy has worked and travelled widely, with both journeys of self-discovery and geography inspiring the muted colours and atmospheric tones which are characteristic of her land and seascapes.

Primarily working in Acrylic this exhibition marks a development into the integration of collage and mixed media, including recent works in oil. A stunning landscape of works taking the viewer back to the poignant moments that make life worth living!

This exhibition is accompanied by extracts from Lucy's first poetry book "Fifteen ways to Heal the World" and runs until 1st May.



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Preview - Dan Greenaway / Alex Rainsford | Artrix Bromsgrove | Thur 3rd April

An exciting double header of Worcestershire born & bred young songwriters comes to The Artrix in early April and will surely prove to be a scintillating night of top quality music.



These two thoroughbred acts have wowed many a crowd between them from Glastonbury to the USofA, both separately as solo acts and together in the band RASE.

Dan Greenaway is a percussive guitarist in the Newton Faulkner mould with echoes of Ben Howard and Ed Sheeran, whilst Alex Rainsford is a singer/songwriter with a unique blend of Alternative folk-rock and a distinctive powerful edge



It will be a privilege to see them both on the same bill doing their own thing plus surely a duet or two at some point in the evening.

Have a listen to these two artists at: dangreenaway.wordpress.com alexainsford.tumblr.com, then you will want to buy your tickets which are £12 from The Artrix website at www.artrix.co.uk

Definitely not to be missed!

Review - Chantel McGregor at the Robin 2 | Bilston | March 4th 2014

Chantel McGregor returned to the Robin 2, a venue at which she has appeared several times previously, to a very decent sized audience. Chantel is the holder of a growing number of blues music industry awards and listening to her tonight it's easy to see what that is.

Before we saw Chantel on stage the crowd were entertained by Chris Bevington & Friends a blues ensemble comprising a number of well established and experienced musicians. The band played the entire contents of their self-titled album which comprised a set of songs originally written by blues luminaries such as Walter Trout and Kenny Wayne Shepherd. The music was of the highest quality, well appreciated by the constantly growing audience.

Chantel McGregor was up next, she may be small in stature but is absolutely huge in talent, her handling of both electric and acoustic guitars is really quite outstanding. Accompanied by Rich Ritchie on bass and Keith McPartling on drums this was all



she needed to produce a rich, often edgy, sound. Her set was based around the 2011 album, *'Like No Other'*; a mix of original material and covers of songs originally recorded by the likes of Robin Trower, Fleetwood Mac and Jimi Hendrix.

In amongst her own work came a revisiting of *'Voodoo Chile'* followed later by the Robin Trower ballad, *'Daydream'*. We came to a spot in the set where both Rich and Keith departed, possibly to help boost the bar takings, while Chantel was left on stage to chat, joke and play some solo guitar. Songs here included Fleetwood Mac's *'Rhiannon'* as well as original work. The set finished with *'Fabulous'* followed by the encore, *'Freefalling'*.

This was a very enjoyable evening which showed the length and breadth of Chantel McGregor's talent; her ability to play top quality blues and blues rock quite effortlessly is a must to see. 10/10.

Words & Pics: Reg Richardson



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REVIEW – Launch Night of the Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham | 22nd March

The day had arrived, over the past few weeks I've visited the venue while it has been refurbished, including a lick of paint inside as well as a whole new PA system, some new lights, a new juke box and new beers. Last night the live music returned too!



On the list we had young local band Raptor, followed by Valve Rider from Warrington with Londoners Four Wheel Drive tonight's headliners. Between sets the music was provided by the Rebel Rock Alliance DJ. This was an all-ticket affair with tickets selling out well before the gig meaning that at least 175 people would be present.

Local band Raptor opened the show. This group of young lads played a mix of original material and covers. The set started and finished with tracks from Airbourne with bits of Hendrix and Black Sabbath in between, not to mention some of their own work. These boys have plenty of talent and plenty of time to develop that talent further so look out for them.

Next up was a biker rock band I'd never heard, or even heard of, before tonight - Valve Rider from Warrington. Warrington isn't renowned for much, except perhaps that George Formby lived (and was buried) there and the home of Pete Waterman is close by; with any luck this bunch of lads will add to the list of well known people from the town. I have to say that having now seen, and heard, them



I don't know why I hadn't done so earlier, they were fantastic. Front man Adam Ward provided some brilliantly aggressive vocals while guitarist Nathan Moore skilfully struck plenty of good 70's & 80's style riffs and licks. The band play hard-hitting, balls out rock, simple as that. The songs covered a good part of their first album, *'Bring it on Heavy'* along with new material destined for a second album plus a

couple of covers from Free and Hendrix. The music was loud and gritty with no frills, but while it might have been simple and straightforward it was also highly entertaining. A great set of music, I highly recommend them.

Top of the bill were London-based rockers Four Wheel Drive. I saw these a few weeks ago while they were touring with StoneWire. The gig I went to at the Robin 2 in Bilston had around 40 people in the audience, so a substantially larger audience awaited them at the Iron Road Rock Bar. The band performed a selection of songs,



old and new; some came from their 2013 EP *'Hammered Again'*, some from their forthcoming album and the audience were treated to a couple of songs not played live previously, *'Control'* and *'Right to Silence'*. For good measure they added two singalong covers, AC/DC's *'Thunderstruck'* and Led Zeppelin's *'Rock & Roll'*. This was gritty, dirty, hit-you-between-the-eyes rock and roll, played with a manic enthusiasm displayed by every member of the band. The band loved it, the crowd loved it, the Iron Road Rock Bar loved it. The band don't do half measures, when they've finished hitting you around the head with one song they do it all over again with the next one, and the one after that and keep doing it until you submit.

This was a great launch night for the venue and if future gigs are as good as this one, and as well attended, the Iron Road Rock Bar won't be going off the rails any time soon!

Words & Photography by Reg Richardson





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Live Music in Bewdley's St Georges Hall

The recent refurbishment of St Georges Hall in Bewdley has created a great environment for live music.

With newly fitted stage lighting, a capacity of over 250 and the original sprung floor still intact, the Main Hall is perfect for dancing the night away.



Under the banner of Music in the Hall, the managers of the Hall have teamed up with Bewdley Youth Festival, an arm of the long-running and highly successful Bewdley Festival, to run a series of music nights with a difference.

Each of the events will feature established acts supported by up and coming talent from schools and colleges across Wyre Forest.

Peter Barnett, the co-ordinator for Bewdley Youth Festival said, "We wanted to expand the opportunities to perform that we were able to give local young musicians in 2013. The refurbished St Georges Hall provided the perfect venue to put on regular events and we are very pleased that the Hall management team were able to support our ambitions by promoting them on a joint basis.

There are a lot of talented musicians in the area, both established and at the beginning of their journeys, and BYF is looking to give young musicians the chance to perform alongside experienced artists to learn from them and to experience performing live in front of an audience."

Scheduled for the coming months are an eclectic range of musical genres, including Rock (with Vault of Eagles in May) and Opera and April sees a Jazz, Blues and Soul night on Friday 25th April .



Vault of Eagles

The evening is headlined by the well-known local saxophonist John Devereux and his Hot Coq and Boogaloo Jazz Quartet with The Sound of Soul, featuring the great singer Maxine accompanied by Gabriel on guitar.

Tickets are £5 in advance from the café in St Georges Hall (or £6 on the night), tickets for under 18s are £2.50.

Contact Peter Barnett, Bewdley Youth Festival co-ordinator for further information and details:



peter.barnett@bewdleyyouthfestival.org.uk

'The British Stan Getz'

Trevor Emeny is one of the best saxophonists working in the Worcestershire region and beyond. He plays in the mellow style of the late Stan Getz. In a long and impressive career he has worked with many great 'names' including Mel Torme, Tony Bennett, Sarah Vaughan and Shirley Bassey.

Trevor is keeping it in the family with his current group, a trio with his son Martin, a vastly experienced musician playing drums. Trevor and Martin are joined by Kidderminster based keyboard maestro Mark Bettis. The trio has recently been undertaking a monthly residency at The Halfway House, Droitwich Road, Fernhill Heath, WR3 8RA. Please ring 01905 451489 to check when the trio is next on stage.

In the meantime, Trevor appears with the Perdido Street Jazzmen at The Fox and Hounds, Lulsley, Nr Alfrick, WR6 5QT every Tuesday from 8pm.



If you fancy travelling further afield, the trio is in residence on the last Thursday of each month at The Trumpet, Bilston, WV14 0EP.

What's more, entry to all of these sessions is FREE.

Alan Musson

Feature - Cleaning Behind the Fridge in... Hereford

In logistical terms, it's at the arse end of nowhere, Hereford. It's about as far off the beaten track of anything musically cool and hip as you can get. Even Norwich is more westernised. But, maybe, this is why there is a dirty rash of heavy, edgy and downright interesting bands seething away just out of view in the sepulchral city of the Marches.

In the hypothetical big city, there is a chance of getting discovered by one of the few remaining "major" labels. But no-one's going to get discovered in Hereford. Ever. So, evolving in glorious isolation but with strong links to like-minded scenes in Bristol, Leicester and various other unglamorous provincial back alleys you'll find a noise scene that is happily doing it all by themselves. Because they have to. And because they can.

The range of wholly locally-sourced aural filth and analogue brutality is impressive: two-piece bass and drums (Skinhorse, Hindbrain); punk in all its rich diversity from the super-heavy (Plane Crasher) to hardcore (Brain Wreck) to good, honest punk ROCK (Stunted Growth, the Delinquents); grindcore, from the power violent (Fetus Christ) to the metallic (Smorg); Sludge (Moth Blood); down tempo and the downright odd (Onemansun, Ghodi); and emo and post-hardcore for light relief (Weathered Hands, Richa). Blessed with some dedicated promoters (Shred Perry, Phobia, Hereford Dead) and a few venues not afraid of antisocial volume (The Black Lion, The Jailhouse, The Herdsman) and a DIY label or two – the town is busy.

Edd Tipton, co-founder of new boys Hereford Dead promotions – which has its inaugural show on Thursday 27th March at the Black Lion – explained further: "In the last year or so we've been lucky enough to come across some fantastic bands when playing around the country. The idea behind Hereford Dead is to bring some of these bands to Hereford and to make connections between Hereford's scene and the scenes in other cities.

The first show will feature The Bismarck from Seattle, New Cowboy Builders from Cardiff with Hereford's One Man Sun and Plane Crasher. In the future we plan to put on Torpor, Sealclubber, Working Man's Noise Unit and as many other great bands as we can book along with support slots from our favourite Hereford bands".

Liam Thomas, agitator, janitor and blunt object behind Fetus Christ, Brain Wreck and Shred Perry promotions – explained the Hereford scene's fierce dedication to DIY in more detail: "it's the only thing worth believing in. Why trust anyone else?"

And there you go. Don't take my word for it. Search for any of the above bands on Bandcamp – or even better, get on the A49 and catch 'em live.

Ed Ling

Fetus Christ



Photograph by NK FARR Photography. Flyers by Liam Thomas.



April Highlights

From the ever eclectic, interesting and innovative events calendar at the awesome Artrix we have plucked four April highlights to tell you slaving hordes about.

Firstly on Friday 10th April the enigmatic and always entertaining George Montague arrives for what he himself describes as the highlight of his "notsobigTour". George and his 6 piece band will treat the Artrix faithful to a fun 2 hour set showcasing his unique blend of rock, jazz and funk, featuring many songs from his acclaimed album "Have You Met George? The man himself says " I am so excited about playing Artrix, it is a stunning venue and I also get to play their 8 foot grand piano, yippee!" Winner of Cheltenham Jazz Festival and Decca Records' "Search For A New Jazz Star" and with too many plaudits to list, George Montague is one hot ticket in town!



Next on Wed 16th April Geordie 4 piece Bridie Et The Arbour arrive to seduce us with their lush, folk-influenced wares. There are touches of J Newsome Et N Jones amidst their sound palate which also includes elements of gospel, baroque Et flamenco as they create songs which intertwine melancholy with joyful rich harmonies.



Amongst their growing collection of accolades they won 2013's Glasto Emerging Talent Comp, were named as a fave of the same year by Tom Robinson on 6 Music and have played a session on Radio4's Loose Ends prog.

This talented quartet are about to release their 2nd and much awaited album which will once again weave a mixture of percussion, fiddle and cello together with the spine-tingling lead vocals for which they have become well known for.

On Fri 18th April the big, bold and bluesy festival faves Stomp and Holler hit B-Town Artrix. As always they will pull together the best Midlands musicians to explode on stage with bucketfuls of brass and a vast array of voices.



This effervescent sextet fill the arena with colour and humour as they get you stomping-Et-a-hollering from the first growl to the last ringing chord with their bayou-infested, swamp grooves. Definitely not to be missed!

The Friday after on 25th sees quality quintet The Roving Crows entertaining the Artrix crowd with their unique blend of folk, celtic and country rock.

They have thrilled many a festival crowd with their powerful live performances and have had airplay on Radio 2 together with glowing recommendations from local stations such as BBC Hereford Et Worcester and Gloucestershire.



They are yet another combo who will have you wiggling in your seats and tapping your toes with delight. Miss them at your peril Beryl!

For more details, ticket prices etc for the above events and many more please visit the venue website at www.artrix.co.uk or ring the box office on 01527 577330

Review **Selecter & Talisman** | 27th Feb

Having first seen Selecter in 1980 and once more in 1992 this was a little bit of nostalgia for me. The first gig in 1980 was one of the most vibrant and liveliest gigs I had ever seen and the question was could they still cut it. I sensed there was a strong expectation in the room. **Talisman** was a real bonus for me as they are another band who hold fond memories (see my review in SLAP Jan/Feb edition). They played a very good warm up to the main event and they are thoroughly nice guys and all round good eggs. Recommended for any fans of Reggae.

This tour by Selecter was the 35th anniversary of the album, *Too Much Pressure* and the opening song was '3 Minute Hero' and from the first note the whole sell out room started dancing creating a wonderful atmosphere. For those not wishing to boogie along it was tricky as the whole floor of this venue moves when the audience does so you moved with it.

The atmosphere in Gloucester Guildhall was electric, the temperature rising as more and more crop headed, post punk, devotees re-lived their 80's, hairlines today greatly assisted by the passing years. It did not lessen the energy, maybe a few joints were creaking, but it wouldn't show until the morning.

From there it was the whole album, 'Everyday', 'They Make Me Mad', 'Missing Words', 'Danger' etc. Having a great reaction from the room. The promise was that they

would play the title track later. At this point I thought well what about James Bond?

Going on to play 'Celebrate the Bullet' the title track from the second album followed by their Ska version of the theme from 'The Avengers' and new songs called 'Prince Among Men' and 'The Whisper'. Next up was Doris Day's 'Secret Love' and I am glad to report they did do 'James Bond', 'Last Train to Skaville', and of course they had to play 'Too Much Pressure' and 'On My Radio' and finished off with '667 (Neighbour of the Beast)' and 'Jump'.



The answer to could they still cut it is emphatically yes! Pauline Black couldn't keep the smile off her face and Arthur "Gaps" Hendrickson danced around the stage like some demented conductor. Wearing a smart grey suit that got wetter and wetter as the gig progressed, I am not sure I have seen anyone sweat so hard for his art. Pauline also has an autobiography out titled 'Black by Design' which I am told is an excellent read.

Photography by Graham Munn & words by Lumpamundo

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Review - Roving Crows | Gloucester Guildhall | 15th March

It was definitely a week for the Irish, especially around Gloucestershire. The Cheltenham Festival Gold Cup, won by Irish Jockey, Davy Russell, was the icing on the cake, but not quite, as **Roving Crows** front man Paul, was only too pleased to announce, Ireland had just won the 6 nations! So here we were, rapidly heading toward St. Patrick's Day, where else was there to be, but here with a band firmly rooted, if not residing, in Ireland. Even some of the support acts had that 'green' heritage. Both come from Tewkesbury, first up, for a short set, 15 year old Ciara O'Neill, accompanied by Dad, Martin, on guitar, was just about near 'Perfect', undoubtedly a name to look for in the future.



Future was exactly where we stopped off next, with **Future Set**, an acoustic 5 piece folk band, inclusive of a double bass and cello, guitars and cajon. Highlight for me in their self penned set was, *'Executive Song'*, some very nice duel guitars feeding into harmonising vocals.

What do I say about the remarkable Roving Crows, without doubt this award winning band has a stage presence, an intoxicating mix of folk fusion, heavily influenced by the band's ancestry. Their music is home-grown and very distinctive, did the earth move? well certainly the floor of this grand, Guildhall venue did, as the devoted feathered fans moved as one to the music.

Past albums were dipped into, but much of the offering was also sourced from their recent release, *Deliberate Distractions*. A slow burn and the firecracker explodes into *'White Petticoat'*, it's impossible to keep still once Caitlin strikes the match. We have *'Days In The Sun'*, and the delightful *Nancy Valentine*, Greg Wilson-Copp's teasing trumpet, ever present, breezing in and out. Tim Tollhurst rumbles up a storm in the hauntingly atmospheric *'Weather'*, ably abetted by the bass of Loz Shaw. 2 new songs were aired, *'On The Road'*, which seemed particularly fitting after 5 days continuous gigging, and temporarily titled *'Spicy Wedge'*. Is this a clue to another album in development, we will have to wait and see. Paul is ever present, with his lead vocals, banter and interplay with the band, but he excels

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himself with the beautiful, spellbinding, lament of *'One Day'*. The Crows, jump, strut, and hop around the stage, its more than just the music truly entertaining. *'Long Time Dead'*, takes us up to the finale, and what else could it be, the only 'imported' but very worthy, Charlie Daniels song, *'Devil Went Down to Georgia'*, Caitlin excels, the violin strings singing under her spell; superb.

I can only urge you, if you have not experienced this band, get out there and find them. You have opportunities in April, the 4th at Welland, 25th at the Artrix, maybe Hay in May, Jinny Ring in June and on into festival season. So no excuses! Visit their website for more dates and details, www.rovingcrows.com

Graham Munn

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Feature - Vault of Eagles

To celebrate the imminent release of their new single *Spoonfed Dead/Livin' With Love* we at Slap Towers thought it was high time we showcased one of the most exciting and innovative bands in The Three Counties namely Vault Of Eagles.

A review of said single appears elsewhere in this spread and there have been other reviews in previous Slaps, but we wanted to dig deeper and discover what makes this talented trio tick & tock. So we got together with Mari, Hetty and Scott delve and plumb their depths (eww! Ed).

Slap (S) - Bit of an obvious starter perhaps but please tell us about the genesis of your band name Vault of Eagles? There's more than a whiff of goth about it surely?!

All - *It's an anagram of 'fatal glove use', which was somehow derived from Smell The Glove, during a long & crazy night. No goth involved (but we do like vaults).*

S - Looking over your previous press, despite having formed four years ago there seems to be little info on Vault of Eagles biography. Is this reticence deliberate and a natural way of saying we'll let the music do the talking?

Mari (M) - *The music was always what it's been about. We had the concept of the band a long time before we actually came together and formed VoE. I was always very shy, but I always had a burning ambition to perform and play, I knew I had it in me but it was just getting it out. I still don't feel it's come out even half as much as it could...! But yeah, it took me a long time to be able to play in front of an audience...*

S - And continuing with the theme, if you are happy to talk about your past, have you all been in other bands either together or apart. Perhaps you could talk about that?

Hetty (H) - *We actually grew up playing Irish music, we have Irish family on our mum's side, and started out playing a lot of jam sessions and local music nights as a family. After that we were in a band called Shaking Trees, with singer Becky Hill.*

Scotty (SC) - *I've been playing drums all my life to be honest! Before VoE I mostly toured with Brummie punk or ska bands like Emetic & the Klopeks. I also drummed for Silver Tequila for a few years which introduced me to the great Worcester music scene.*

S - A happy VoE punter once described yourselves as "a culmination of all the best parts of my record collection"; what records are in your collection which you are particularly proud of?

All - *(communal collection): Our general music collection is far too huge.. but there are a few records we are particularly fond of namely:-*

Mark Lanegan / Duke Garwood - Black Pudding, Led Zep III, The Groundhogs - Split, Bob Dylan - Desire, Dreadzone - Earth Angel, The Doors - Strange Days, Tom Waits - Early Years, Free - Tons Of Sobs, Jethro Tull - Aqualung, Magnum - Brand New Morning, 13th Floor Elevators - Live special limited edition picture disc!

S - And talking of happy punters another fan of yours told me that a couple of things that stood out about Vault of Eagles were your vocal harmonies and your use of different time signatures. And where unusual time signatures are mentioned the demon word 'prog' usually follows. Is that fair to say in Vault's case?



Spoonfed Dead/Livin' with Love

Slap faves Vault Of Eagles are set to release double A-side single 'Spoonfed Dead' backed with 'Livin' With Love' in May. The single, produced by Tom Gittins (Robert Plant, The Culprit, The Lines) is only available, God love 'em, as a limited edition vinyl 7"!

This new release finds our intrepid trio treading new musical territory, taking the unbridled, raw and energetic synergy of their live show and refining it into a potent concoction of dirgy, transcendental rock. Their ongoing musical evolution encompasses many sonic sensibilities, including angular, hooky guitar riffs, driving rhythms, insistent bass lines, soulful and twisted vocals, layered harmonies, and psychedelic tangents (Phew! Ed) The band tell me that they take their inspiration from the post-punk movement of the 90s in addition to it's 60s and 70s roots as well as from a vast spectrum of all the artforms.

M - That's more than fair to say but It was more the Pink Floyd and Jethro Tull side of prog and Zep tracks like The Ocean and Black Dog, though I am partial to a bit of King Crimson... I had an aversion to writing in 4/4 for a fair while!! Trying to avoid anything that sounded too obvious and straight, add an extra beat in and see how that sounds..

H - Some of our more recent songs are actually relatively straight by comparison! With alternating rhythms within the timings instead. But yeah, prog has definitely been a part of our musical journey growing up, in more ways than one. Our parents had a very eclectic vinyl collection which inevitably had an great impact in shaping our sound.

S - And your excellent vocal harmonies; do you have to work hard on this aspect of the band or is it something that comes unnaturally easy due to the symbiosis of sisters? Joking apart there does seem to be a closeness in your sound born of familial familiarity and bonding. Would that be fair to say?

H - We only started adding the harmonies two years ago so we're still learning now how our voices work together. There are a lot of subtleties to making harmonies work well, and we put a lot of time into getting the parts how we want them to sound.

S - Vault of Eagles have now released a couple of EP's and a couple of singles, are there any plans afoot to expand and come out with a debut full album? I think you deserve to let full and free reign to your artistic outpourings. Which leads me to the next question...

SC - We feel we probably have enough songs for two albums, but we'd want to be able to dedicate everything to it. We want to do it properly, with enough time and money to do it how we want to do it, ideally with a producer we work really well with.

S - Another of the unique/interesting aspects of the band is your total involvement and handmade approach to everything you do. Hence individual printed t-shirts, covers, banners etc. This approach is obviously very important to yourselves so could you please extrapolate?

M - It's always been a natural aspect of the creative process to us, working together. It's a two man job too - bleaching, tying, stencilling, spraying, a lot goes into our merch. It makes each item personal and more special too, each t-shirt is individual!

S - And finally: Vault Of Eagles are a deep-thinking and philosophical combo so are there any pearls of wisdom you would like to impart to your legions of fans??

All - There is illumination at the termination of the subterranean excavation

SLAP - Wow and thanks x

Be sure to catch Vault of Eagles on Sat 3 May @ The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham // TICKETS E5 and already looks to be a sell out - To reserve your ticket in advance contact: vaultofeagles@googlemail.com, or through Facebook. Main support from the awesome BLEECH



'Spoonfed Dead' typifies VOE's unadulterated personal worldview and when asked about the song's genesis Mari told us, "I don't think the lyrics need explanation, because they equally relate to any number of issues on an individual level. In the video, however, we wanted to focus on the subliminal advertising element, parodying certain adverts that we find amusing because of how ridiculous they are! The media is such a powerful tool, good and bad - it's all about how it's used."

The other tune on this powerful double A-sider, 'Livin' With Love' is filled with subtle textures and uneasy questions, focusing as it does on the conflict that exists between people - in any relationship. Bassist Hetty added, "Much of the conflict we experience on a personal level often seems to reflect the wider conflict that happens every day in the world."

This is the strongest Vault release yet confirming that they are a band who grow in strength, musicality and confidence with each single. All I can say is I can't wait for their first full length album..on vinyl of course!

Words by:Gus De Wynd

Preview - Owen Tromans | The Marris Bar | Friday 18th April

Black Country boy Owen Tromans always seemed on the verge of "The Big Time" with John Peel and Steve Lamacq turn of the millennium faves San Lorenzo who toured with Idlewild amongst many others.

Having initially split in 2001 then briefly reforming to play several gigs but alas no further records, Owen has gone on to release a slew of well received albums of "uncluttered and intensely beautiful ballads" as stated by Time Out and has received plaudits from many more such lauded periodicals.

We caught up with Owen recently to ask him some questions and see what he's been up to:-

Slap Mag (S) - If you don't mind going over old ground perhaps you could tell us a bit of the San Lorenzo story, because as stated above the band seemed on the edge of 'happening' as it were?...

San Lorenzo were a three-piece inspired by a lot of the young post-rock bands in Birmingham that we were going to see and also US bands, like Karate for example. We got a really good start straight away - our demo was well received, we got a single deal with Gringo and, strangely, our first show was at The Garage in London rather than in Birmingham. We got good support from NME, Melody Maker, John Peel and Lamacq as you mention and were lucky enough to get offered the Idlewild tour support which was great fun.

As to being on the edge of something, I guess we were... Speaking personally, I was quite naïve about how things worked and had some misguided ideals perhaps. I could have handled certain situations better in hindsight - we were all very young! When the band ended we had ironically just done our best recordings which later came out on the Bearos singles and unreleased compilation "The Sea is a Map" in 2001. You can hear a San Lorenzo playlist here: soundcloud.com/#owentromans/sets/san-lorenzo

S - You seem a pleasantly humble chap who, unlike some artists, is reticent about PR and biography. Would you care to fill us in on your Black Country upbringing and how you got into music?

I started making music with friends when I was around 14. If there was a Eureka moment it was hearing "Reverence" by the JAMC on the radio one night, it just blew me away. From there I started listening to John Peel and buying the NME and becoming a bit of a music obsessive. Pretty soon I had borrowed my dad's guitar and started playing with friends who were up for making some strange music. We'd record songs and sounds into an old cassette deck that had a mic built in. I was always fascinated (still am) by being able to record something and play it back with all the little intricacies of the moment there. It sounds simple, but that's one of the things that first hooked me about music - being able to capture a song/sound and return to it (you can hear a track from a 1994 cassette here:

<https://soundcloud.com/#owentromans/act-of-god>.

We formed bands in the local area, eventually playing fairly regular shows in Birmingham, Stourbridge and Wolverhampton.

S - Continuing the theme, lyrically your songs have a hefty dose of autobiography and a fond reverie for your background/past. Is this elegiac and strong storytelling element an important approach for you or even one you recognise?

Definitely. It is very important. My release "For Haden" is inspired by my experiences growing up in Haden Hill and the mythical quality it held for me. The inner sleeve is a magical realist map of the area.

I have always lived in the suburbs or in small towns and the particular experiences you can have in those places have really shaped my work. The people I met growing up populate my songs in many ways. I have a cast of recurring characters that I often return to and some of those are based upon friends from long ago.

S - Your music to me is firmly in the modern wyrd folk almost hauntological tradition, but also has an echo of the lush proper sentimentality of a Richard Hawley or Belle and Sebastian. Does this make sense to you and could you tell us who your musical touchstones are?

I could see how people could hear that in some of my stuff, for sure. I have hundreds of inspirations musically, as you can imagine. I love music - it's my lifeblood - so I'm always listening to something. Recently I have been returning to some old Popul Vuh albums and a ton of Les Rallizes Bootlegs. I really like the new Sun Kil Moon LP and the last John Murry (I played with him in Winchester and he is a fantastic chap). It's rare that I consciously set out to get a sound like a particular artist, although Neil Young's electric guitar might be an exception!

S - Is there a Tromans' Musical Masterplan for the future or do you favour the more 'organic' approach where songs arrive from the ether when the muses visit...or something?

In some senses there is a plan. As I mentioned, all the songs on "For Haden" were written about growing up in that area, and "The Fall of Acre" is a narrative song cycle. All the songs were written to carry a story forward. But, sometimes ideas just come, and that is partly what is so wonderful and refreshing about this new LP - the songs on Golden Margins are not taken from one particular place but they run right through my catalogue of interests. There's the spooked folk stuff, the grand narrative things, the epics and the more upbeat tracks. It feels like a really exciting record for me. You can hear the album here:

sacredgeometryrecs.bandcamp.com/album/golden-margins

Interview by Oscar Mild



Feature - Meeting Mr. Dean Myers: Philadelphian/Film Maker



Dean is a young film maker from Philadelphia, who in January, came over to England to visit family and see some of Europe. Once he had settled and found his feet around Worcester, he was eager to explore the newly flooded town centre & shoot as much film as possible.

Upon seeing a postcard of an iconic stainless window, Dean decided he would film Worcester Cathedral and in turn, the winter floods themselves before they receded. On a not so overcast Sunday he set out to the cathedral grounds and afterwards decided to use Ave Maria as it's soundtrack, whilst juxtaposing the footage with a raving evangelist he met in the street.

In the evening he also shot & edited a video for his bro in law Rory's surf rock band *Cani Morti*, by simply following Rory plus his sis around the town and capturing what he saw.

What struck me from the resulting footage was an eschewed perspective only afforded to a visitor: seeing unique beauty and composition in the ordinary, that arguably many others would shun as just being... well, normal. By moonlight he captured majestic pale swans as they drifted through the vastly overflowing Severn. These little touches instantly drew to my attention that this guy was the real deal - passionate, inventive and practical!



In the next few weeks he captured live performances by myself and Italian band Zeus amongst others at the now sadly defunct Bridge Inn on Lowesmoor. If this wasn't enough he befriended multi-instrumentalist John-Joe Murray and shot a Dadaist short for John's Worrisome Ankle Trout composition, 'Yello Sno'. Again in just a day Dean directed, filmed and edited this memorable little video. He added slow motion and sped-up jump-cut edits to keep the footage jittery and almost stop motion in feel to stunning affect!

Dean was only here a short while (2.5 weeks in UK) but during that time I found his laid back yet proactive, hands-on approach for getting things done and enjoying it as nothing short of inspiring! Here is a short interview I conducted with the man:-

Slap: Tell us all a little about yourself:

Dean: *I got into freelancing as a way to earn money and keep myself busy. I've wanted to shoot videos professionally since i was a young kid, but I was unable to actively pursue my interest due to the fact that I was... dirt poor!*

Slap: Could you tell us about your modus operandi as a film maker?

Dean: *I like my work to have a nice flow and I like to have a good arty 'wank', by which I mean, adding as many pretty and picturesque shots as possible. I think the artistic intent is definitely important. Without which -- your work is just hacked, mediocre and shite. Often a lot of thought and time goes into producing music, so the accompanying footage should put in a certain amount of effort at the very least!*

Slap: Who else have you worked aside?

Dean: *I've worked with some big shot mofos like; the Legendary G. Calvin Weston & a drummer from the band Silvertide. I've also met Ronald Jeremy the porn star, which is something I can't go into here in great detail, for obvious reasons. (spoilsport! Dirty Ole Ed)*

Slap: Ok.. What did you think of your time in Worcester and the local scene in general?

Dean: *I loved Worcester: it's a beautiful city set in mesmerising gothic surroundings and I think the scene is brilliant. It's a very easy going place with a DIY ethic. People seem to be creative and enthusiastic, but I don't think they really know what they've got. I'd come back in a heartbeat! Filmwise I've almost finished editing my Worcester Cathedral and I'm happy with how it turns out!*

Slap: Did you meet any other film makers whilst you were here?

Dean: *I met King Dave! He's the man! That guy's relentless: he rocks out whole shows, getting stuck in there filming where the actions at! I also saw some of Tom Lee Rutter's work and that was more surreal, cinematic and arty, but I enjoyed the spaced out aspects & theatrics to his films! His editing & set designs was top, dawg!*

You can check out Dean Myers' shorts etc here : www.youtube.com/user/Mmmcowbrains and follow the man on Twitter - @MRDeanMyers

Craigus Barry

Review - Surprise Attacks | Firefly, Worcester | March 14th

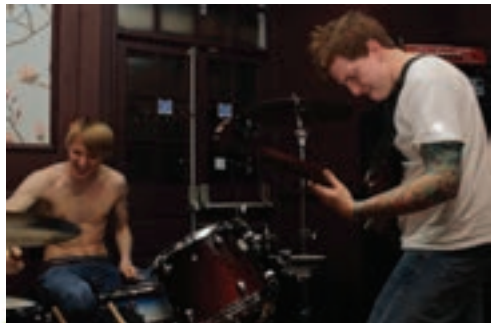
It takes some brass neck to pull off instrumental live. Its unconventionality (where's the vocals? It needs vocals!) and the focus on the musicianship can sometimes deter an audience – especially a self-styled punk audience. However. If you take Jello Biafra's immortal definition that "*Punk ain't no religious cult. Punk means thinking for yourself*" then it doesn't get more "punk" than a crew of wonderfully-skilled underground-minded artists crafting exactly the noise they want to, how they want to – and playing it with passion, commitment and style.

And this is basically what Coventry's *Those Among Us Are Wolves* did here, opening the latest *Surprise Attacks* show at the Firefly with a blaze of keys, guitars and



percussion. Featuring the wunderkind bassist from Walsall's shimmering *Arbour Lights*, this was an immersive and symphonic fusion of just about every interesting musical style you can imagine, alternately soaring, looping and grinding. As an experience, this was not unlike a live action film score – a score for an art house film about some kind of conspiracy involving a hollow earth, cyborgs and giant lizards or something. Quality work.

Continuing the brazen instrumental theme, but a different proposition entirely, Worcester's own *Broken Oak Duet*. Two handsome boys working up a pulsating post-rock storm with a minimalist analogue attack of just baritone guitar and drums. With a cymbals-heavy post punk disco sound driving along some pacey and



pokey as hell bottom-end string work – sounding more like a bass and drums combo – this got dead into a groove and kept you right there with them. Rock. And. Roll.

And then... we had the statutory undertaker works site accident that was *Norweb*. Representing for the County Palatine of Lancaster, this clattering, art-noise rock



shambles proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that Northern absurdist punkery in the vein of John Cooper Clarke, Frank Sidebottom, John Shuttleworth and yes, Mark E Smith, is alive and well and making a holy fool of itself deep into the modern age. As individuals the members of this band are all great, seasoned musicians. The front man is a camp, tatterdemalion (word of the month – Ed) pedagogue the likes of which you will rarely see. On tape, it's tight and sounds a bit like Shellac being silly and singing about foundation level civil engineering. Live, it's just chaos. And just a little bit ace.



Last on – *BUZZorHOWL*. High end neo-melodic hardcore. Formed from the long cold ashes of *Drive* and *Jailcell Recipes* – heroes of the old skate thrash scene as was – this was thick with pre-grunge late 80s/early 90s nostalgia, and sounded every bit as fresh and vital as it would have done around the time the Berlin Wall came down. Nuts tight drumming, little bit of distortion, bit of wah-wah pedal action – and no pausing for breath. If the kids want to hear how a simple three-piece can nail a set to right the floor, this was a shining and instructive example.

Words: Ed Ling Pics: Duncan Graves

Interview - Slap meets Swingamajig Festive Organiser Tom Hyland



Slap – Hi Tom, hope all is good with you, I wanted to first ask you a little about the history of Swingamajig, where did the original concept for the festival come from? Is the festival a continuation of the regular electro-swing night Hot Club de Swing?

I love festivals and always wanted to put one on. When I'm not working on the Electric Swing Circus or Swingamajig Festival I help run a company that has a double decker bus that turns into a stage for outdoor events - so I'm very lucky to have access to a lot of really cool kit. It is very much a continuation from our Hot Club events in Digbeth, we thought that well if we can get 250 people down for a club show, what would happen if we tried to make this bigger, and that just grew and grew.



Slap – Electro-swing is beginning to become a more recognised genre of music, but for those readers who may not have encountered the sound, how would you describe it and are there any acts out there that you'd recommend as a starting point into the style of music?

Check out Caravan Palace and Parov Stellar as they are the two large acts on the scene. That said Electro Swing as a genre has moved on so much in the last few years, there are loads that sound totally different. If you like big drums and big bass, then two producers I really rate are the C@ in the H@ and Odjbox. If you like things a little mellower then Caro Emerald and Dunklebunt would be worth a listen.

Slap – How has Swingamajig festival been received to date, how was last year's event?

Well we had a capacity crowd of 1000 people down last year, and we have had so much support from our crowd. Being a festival that isn't supported by any main stream media, we are totally dependent on having a loyal crowd who like to do things a little bit different on a Bank Holiday Sunday, and I honestly believe that Swingamajig is the best crowd you will find in the Midlands. It's great as it is a daytime as well as a night time show, so we can program in

all those little things that make it special and totally unlike anything else we have ever seen!

Slap – This year there's a lot more involved than just bands and DJ's, you can join a dance class on the run to the event, tell us about the classes and do you expect many people to take up the offer of a few steps in preparation to the festival?

Well tickets for the dance classes have started flying out. It is partly because we have some absolute top class teachers coming down, international competition winners from all around the UK and further abroad. The classes are aimed at different abilities so that if you have never danced before you can come and learn some steps.

Slap – I've also read that you have a number of circus performers during the event, why did you decide to incorporate them into the spectacle?

I've always loved the circus and Swingamajig is an excuse to showcase circus talent alongside the music - it fits so well together and makes it very much more of an event. Being a one day event and calling ourselves a festival we need to be very careful that it isn't just another gig that lasts a bit longer. With everything going on at Swingamajig - it is very much a festival and that's just what we are after.

Slap – Your own band The Electric Swing Circus are performing, how would you describe the band? and what can we expect from your performance?

We mix 1920s gypsy jazz and big and brass with modern beats and bass tied together with a stunning live show. Best thing is to see it live or check out one of our youtube videos - www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEQL77fTRRc

Slap – What else can people expect from the Swingamajig festival? and is there anything else you'd like to tell our readers?

There are going to be all sorts of wonderful twists and surprises - but it's all going to be a secret until the day. It's much more fun that way! What we can promise is a day of music, dance, magic and circus, unlike anything you will have ever experienced before...

By Will Munn

Boxxed, Floodgate Street, Digbeth
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Preview - Laetitia Sadier Trio | The Cube, Malvern | 19th April

Over the years, there have been a fair few surprise musical visitors to the locale and Laetitia Sadier's visit to The Cube in Malvern on Saturday 19 April is surely right up there. Those who do not know the name may however recognise her as the chanteuse of her former band, the influential 90s art-poppers Stereolab. In an era of grunge and Brit-pop their Anglo-French surrealist rumblings stood out, as witnessed by an outstanding appearance on the Word performing 'French Disko'.



Stereolab were born of a musical and romantic alliance between Sadier and Tim Gane but have been on a semi-permanent self-imposed hiatus for five years. Sadier,

likewise, disbanded her original solo project, **Monade**, at the same time in favour of using her own name, voice and (simply) an electric guitar for a few shows. For the debut album, 2010's *'The Trip'* however, she employed the whole band approach, albeit with more emphasis for the lyrical content; something she was somewhat constrained by Gane's insistence on writing the music for the words to 'fit round'. Sadier's exquisite voice may now have more room to breathe but this doesn't mean that the music takes a back seat - the arrangements are, however, more minimal so as to not overload the vocal.

The follow up, 2012's *'Silencio'*, retains the cinematic influences of the likes of Jean-Luc Godard and Jean Renoir and also takes a political pop at the ruling elite and money men. There's even the confidence to rekindle the musical collaboration with Gane on *'Next Time You See Me'*.

This will be the first date on the tour and, at the time of going to press, looks like it will sell out. If there are tickets left, hurry because it is unlikely you will get in on the door. Support comes from prodigious local polymath, **Howard James Kenny**. £8 in advance, £10 on the door.

Tickets available at malvernlive.ticketsource.co.uk.

<http://www.dragcity.com/artists/laetitia-sadier>

<http://howardjameskenny.com/>

Glazz

CD Review - Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos — Kill the Beast

They always say the second difficult album is the toughest. Well for you fans of **The Sexy Weirdos**, you need not have worried because it's a good follow up to the first album *Victory for the Monsters*.

Not surprisingly it's a good mix of Ska, Punk, Folk, Dub with a carnival atmosphere and I am sure that live performances will have the same infectious effect of making everyone dance with delight with a big smile on their face. The title track is one they have performed before with one or two subtle changes. Political issues are raised in *Question the Answers* and *Raggle-Taggle Gypsy* has its roots firmly in Folk music.

Using the Clash tuba player from Sandinista, David Bowie's mixing desk, Joy Division's Guitar and Neds Atomic Dustbin's drum kit to make the album must have been a good way of doing some name dropping from rock history.

The whole album is a rich stew of different

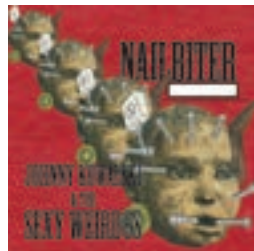
influences from far flung places but they always seem to make it work and will be welcomed by the converted and certainly worth a listen for the non believers.

The question remains are these geniuses or as mad as a box of frogs? I think it's a bit of both.

The Weirdos are at **The Hare and Hounds Kings Heath** on Friday 4th April with support from Culture Dub Orchestra, The Harlequin Dynamite Marching Band and DJ sets from Will Itsasecret. At the gig people can buy one of 100 limited edition download codes of the single (Nailbiter/Tequila) with original artwork for a couple of quid, but the single will be available for download to everyone from that night.

The album will be available for pre-order as of the 4th of April too. Pre-ordering will gain you access to another track from the album (probably *The Good Shark*) for immediate download and you will receive your copy of the physical album (or download depending on which you chose) on or around May 7th, the official release date.

Lumpamundo



Review | venue Xpresso Exhibition

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of a trip down to Alcester to meet three local painters who are staging an exhibition at venue Xpresso in the town centre.

Jon Gidlow, Rosie Lippett and Steve Haywood three local artists with one thing in common, talent. I had a chance to sit down and have a chat with them over coffee and find out a bit more about them and their work.



Jon Gidlow has been painting professionally for seven years now and says he was always a keen sketcher and painter from an early age. He studied at LARA (the London Atelier of Representational Art), and learnt the traditional style of method and instruction taught there. This is a fine art method and requires the student to learn how to recreate

very accurate representations of the subject, which we see in the works of what we call the Old Masters. Jon like Steve and Rosie paints in oil and his main style is portraiture. He says oils give a richer feel to the picture he feels it can really capture the interaction between the painter and the subject. He was recently commissioned by Alcester Town Council to do a mural for the Town Hall. It was sponsored by Carol Lane who runs venue Xpresso with Ellen Mason. The mural depicts the town Leet in their regalia and is one of several works you can see on his website @jongidlow.com

Steve Haywood and Rosie Lippett like Jon have always been passionate about painting and have both been painting full time for around six years now. Rosie worked for Royal Worcester Porcelain as a sculptress and designer and made and painted work for them. She has worked in local schools on art projects and her paintings have been bought by our Queen, the King of Dubai and Sacchi. Rosie's work is traditional in style but at the same time she is also a great fantasy artist and her work displays a lot of charm and character.

Besides her exhibition at venue Xpresso she has another one at Number 8 in Pershore. This one is a celebration of the feminine and dreams of women and again shows another side of



Rosie's work. The exhibition is a selection of her fantastic Hare painting's and sketches which have proved very popular over the years.

Steve's work has a great sense of humour to it but at the same time shows what a talented artist he is. Steve is better known as the author of the *Crow Man of Stones Throw Village* and his Nits of folly cool wood and *The Bags of Cardboardington* stories. Steve has worked in tv and radio and being an artist as a constant adventure and opportunity to entertain people. Steve says he tries to feed people's eyes with his pictures and though his work features his scarecrows and may look light hearted, he takes his work very seriously and feels he has a responsibility to art and that life isn't worth living without it. He has had a patronage with the National Trust and has been featured several times in *The Telegraph* and other national papers for his work and stories.



The exhibition will be on through April and May at venue Xpresso and April for Rosie at Number 8 in Pershore. So pop down have a coffee and a look and enjoy some great art.

Mad Dave

New Music Night | The Victoria Works, Studley

Saturday 22nd February saw the Victoria Works Studley open its doors to a new music night. It is an opportunity for bands and artists to showcase to show case a selection of their material and give you a chance to see a snapshot of their set.

With sets from duo Imaner, Becky Jenkins, Buzz, Maggie Strong, Paul White, Pippa and band Damaged Goods there was a great selection of material on offer.

The event is going to be held every last Saturday of the month, the idea being to get people in and play and show case a short set with a view to playing a full set later in the year. If you want a good pint of real ale check out the local brew there to. I recommend the Keystones, brewed across the road at the Weatheroak Brewery.

So if you are a budding Bob Dylan or a budding Bob Marley get down to the Victoria Works and show what you've got.

From your gonzo reporter on the front line -

Mad Vlad Putin



Adrian from Damaged Goods

Art Walk Ugly Duckling To Beautiful Swan

What better time of year to enjoy some of Worcester's wildlife as well as its wildlife themed art? A walk that takes you along the canal towpath towards the river then back towards town passes not only the official and unofficial art inspired by Worcester's waterside wildlife but also some of the year's freshly hatched ducklings and signets among plenty of other wildlife.

This walk starts from behind Staples, crossing the bridge to turn right along the towpath and under the bridge. The sculpture entitled 'Ducks' was designed by Bristol-based artist Paul Juillerat and was part of the new Shrub Hill development in 2002. The stainless steel ducks in an engraved pattern stands on a painted plinth



on the opposite side of the canal to a nature area where ducks nest, and can be seen from either side of the canal or from the summit of the first bridge that

crosses it, while the first of several unofficially painted murals of weasels can be seen under the next bridge. The trail of weasels continues along walls and under bridges as the towpath passes the historic Commandery and arrives at Diglis Basin.

If wildlife isn't your thing, there should be plenty of canal barges to see along the walk but especially in the basin as they moor here or pass through here to reach the river. Turning right to cross the canal and follow the river the path now passes the Diglis Hotel, which is a great place for a summertime drink. It also passes the water gate below the Cathedral where the history and momentous facts of Worcester's past floods can be seen.

The path passes below the cathedral and passes the black bronze swan sculpture which stands beside the river below the historic Bishops



Palace. This was presented by the citizens and twinning association of one of Worcester's twin town's of Kleve, to the city of Worcester. It is sculpted by Dieter Von Levetzow as a replacement erected in 2001 to replace his original sculpture which was stolen only months after it was first installed.

And now that the walker has travelled from ducks to swans, the walk is complete, and arriving at South Quay you might like to enjoy a well-earned drink or ice cream beside the river in the springtime sunshine.

Sarah Ganderton

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Review | Miss Pearl and the Rough Diamonds | The Chestnut | 1st March

Over recent months The Chestnut in the Arboretum has quietly but steadily been turning into Worcester's best bet for a good Saturday night out, for those wanting a change from town's same-old same-old.

It's never less than lively of a weekend now, and so it was a bustling crowd on 1st March that looked to cash in on the promise of good-time 50's rock 'n' roll made by Miss Pearl and the Rough Diamonds.



Their minimal three-piece line-up was propelled forward by their obvious love for the music they played and their enjoyment in delivering it. The band sit on the bouncing propulsion of the stand-up bass and sit-down drums rhythm section, topped with chuckling lead guitar lines redolent of Carl Perkins which drive the groove along. Each band member took a turn with lead vocals, and I've always got a soft spot for a band with a singing drummer.

They played a nicely blended mix of the usual well known rock and roll suspects, some digging around at the genre's edges for hidden gems, and the odd original song thrown in for good measure. After a wobbly few numbers while they found their feet, the group's swing became

utterly irresistible and they drove that swing hard into the pub.

Toes were tapped, hands were clapped, people were seen jiving in The Chestnut's narrow aisles; The headline worthy Miss Pearl periodically emerged from the wings to disperse all this virile energy by sprinkling some glamourpuss fairy dust over the show with her cocktail party dress and big-hearted vocals.

So what did they play and how did they play it? Well, the pleasant surprise is that the handful of band originals ("Mean, Mean Woman", "Help Me Baby") are among the set's highlights, played with such conviction, slickness and sense of fun that they really jumped out. As for the cover songs, the highlights for me included a re-energised, rock'n'roll "Folsom Prison Blues", a tough, swinging Stray Cat Strut and amazingly, a proper driving, dancing version of a great song usually ruined namely Johnny B Goode. It was a genuine joy to hear such life breathed into it. They even treated us to a Latin grooved, snake-hipped voodoo "Mambo Baby"

Such was the sense of upbeat Saturday night abandon generated by their music that there was even some dancing on the tables by the end! (Officially discouraged by the house management, I'm sure...) Another great Saturday night at The Chestnut done and dusted. If you want vibrant live music and you want to dance – Miss Pearl and The Rough Diamonds are the band for you.

by Dan Bramhall

Just when you thought it was
safe to drink the water!

It's back
for a third
glorious year!

malvern rocks ^{III}

Malvern Rocks, the three day festival of music, will be held over the weekend of 25th-27th July. More than one hundred bands and performers playing in twenty venues around the hills. Musicians, groups, solo artists and singers who want to play at the festival are invited to apply by filling in the Performers Application Form at malvernrocks.com. Don't hang about, all applications need to be in by April 21st with the line up being confirmed by May 19th. All types of music are showcased at the festival; rock, reggae, funk, folk, country . . . whatever floats your boat. So come and make a splash!

25th - 27th July 2014

CD Review | Skewwhiff | Nice Little Upper

Nice Little Upper is the debut album by Worcester based band Skewwhiff, a band that have been busy performing locally and writing material for the past five years or so, whilst gracing festival stages along the way. The band take their musical cues from post-punk, indie, skewed pop and new wave predominately whilst casually nodding at a ska (or is that dub) influence along the way.

Skewwhiff along with the help of producer Dave Draper have set about trying to capture that raw energy and serrated hook-laden pop edge on *Nice Little Upper* and as debuts go (or perhaps introductions) they've done a pretty damn good job.

The album opens with a crashing strum of electric guitar and a howl of feedback before the drums summon in *Skiddadle*, with the band immediately stamping their identity with a bombastic torrent of drums, slashing riffs and the infectious female lead vocal courtesy of Beanie. It's a noisy no nonsense opener that brings to mind (to this reviewer) a more abrasive, spikier version of Elastica or Peel favourites Blessed Ethel.

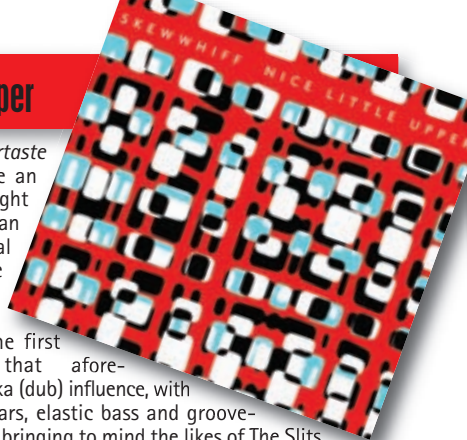
From the punchy opener, the band offer up a couple of delicious slices of infectious indie-pop with *Startrite*, complete with a massive contagious vocal hook and the bouncy *Gizmo* that features a glorious bit of wordless, scat like vocals that are impossible not to hum along.

And *Bittertaste* proves to be an album highlight offering up an observational view on the poverty line, whilst also providing the first hint of that aforementioned ska (dub) influence, with choppy guitars, elastic bass and groove-laden drums bringing to mind the likes of The Slits or a female fronted Ruts. Other album highlights include the brilliant hand-clap friendly, sing-a-long indie anthem, *It Girl* (think Ladykillers era Lush!), the acoustic led, stripped back, *Doorstep* and the joyful jangly indie pop of album closer *Nice One* to name but a few.

Skewwhiff have delivered a catchy ten-track affair, with the somewhat aptly entitled *Nice Little Upper*. It's a fun collection that will leave you with a nagging hook, a big grin and a desperate urge to hit the repeat button.

Will Munn

Nice Little Upper will be available at the launch party on 'Record Store Day' - 19th April at the Marris Bar with Cracked Actors in support. Tickets are available at £3 from Music City. The album will also be available from Rise Records and in digital format at Bandcamp and itunes.



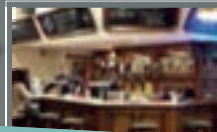
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Review - Jagger, The Killer & The Prettiest Man In Rock & Roll Exhibition

During March, West Bromwich Central Library had an interesting exhibition of black & white photographs from the heady days of 1960s Rock and Roll entitled "Jagger, The Killer & The Prettiest Man In Rock & Roll".

The 40 frame exhibition featured the early work of photographer and first manager of Black Sabbath, Jim Simpson and included rarely-seen images of Mick Jagger, Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard [hence the exhibition title] as well as The Rolling Stones, Chuck Berry, Nina Simone, John Lee Hooker, Rod Stewart, The Spencer Davis Group, the very first publicity shots of The Moody Blues and The Move and more.



With the exhibition as a backdrop, there were also a series of open discussions entitled *Meet The Doers, Not The Talkers: The Business Of Music* where established local music industry leaders talked openly about the other side of the music business away from the glare

of the spotlight along with Q & A sessions. These included local independent record companies; Tom Hyland from Ragtime Records, Craig Hamilton from Commercially Inviabile Records and Tim Jennings of Big Bear Records, all talking about how they continue to discover, record and release the music they love.



This was a fascinating combination of photography and music, attracting lovers of music, aspiring and working musicians and anyone interested in the workings of the music industry as well as those who wanted to see the photographs themselves, taking a peek into musical history freeze framed!

Preview - Music for Tia 17th April

Worcester musicians and music fans are joining together to hold a gig with a difference at Worcester's Marris Bar on 17th April. The event is aimed at recruiting new bone marrow donors for the Anthony Nolan charity, with the organisers hoping to recruit 50 new potential donors prior to the event commencing, whilst at the same time raising the general awareness of the urgent need for bone marrow donors.

The event has been inspired by the case of Worcester toddler Tia Pugh who is in urgent need of a bone marrow donor to help her overcome not one but two serious illnesses. Two-year old Tia has an extremely rare form of immune deficiency so rare doctors are undecided as to what to call it. The deficiency, which is an illness in its own right, means that little Tia is unable to fight a salmonella infection she has contracted and is vulnerable to further infections. She also has a Tuberculosis-like illness called Mycobacterium Malmoense, and it is possible that Tia is the only person on the planet to be struck by both illnesses simultaneously.

Not only do children such as Tia and their families have to face the ordeal of searching for a donor, but they also have to contend with the fears people have of donating bone marrow. Tia's father Nick Pugh explains that the process of donating bone marrow is much simpler and

easier than ever before. "Potential donors simply submit a saliva sample and then if a match arises with a patient then they have a chance to donate. There are a lot of myths out there but donating is so easy nowadays. In 90% of cases, it is done through a similar procedure to giving blood, where the stem cells are extracted from the blood. It's really simple and a million miles away from what people think."

Anthony Nolan staff will be present before the music event from 6-30 pm to 8-00 pm to take saliva samples from potential donors, who must be between the ages of 16 and 30, (although admission to the event is for over 18s only unless they have a Marris Bar already have junior membership). Those wishing to submit a sample need to avoid taking any food or fluids in the 30 minutes beforehand. That requirement extends to not chewing gum or smoking. Full details of the work of Anthony Nolan may be found on their website www.anthonynolan.org.

Acts confirmed include Laszlo, made up of Connor Maher and members of This Wicked Tongue, and Ben Vickers, with more to be confirmed. Tickets for the event are available in advance for £2, or for £3 on the door (Bone marrow register recruitment from 6-30pm with Doors at 8-00 pm). Those wishing to register but unable to submit a saliva sample on the day will have the opportunity to submit a request for a sample pack to be sent to their address and to join the register at a later date.

Andy Maynard



What's On in April

SWAN THEATRE, WORCESTER



Worcester Repertory Company presents - The Canterbury Tales by Phil Woods

Tues 1st - Sat 5th April, 7.30pm & 2pm, £16, Sat Matinee £12.50 (U16s £10)

A modern take on Chaucer's saucy tales, with live music before the show and during the interval as well as on stage.

The Gospel of Matthew - Weds 16th April, 7.30pm, £12.50

Acclaimed in theatres and churches throughout the UK, George Dillon presents an unforgettable vision of Jesus in his highly intense and occasionally humorous solo staging of the first Gospel.

Dylan Thomas: Clown in the Moon - Sat 26th April, 7.30pm, £12.50

Celebrating 100 years since Thomas' birth, Clown in the Moon is a dramatic portrait of the poet's chaotic, frequently hilarious and all too brief life.



HUNTINGDON HALL, WORCESTER

Hazel O'Connor plus support Cole Stacey & Joseph O'Keefe - Thurs 3rd April, 8pm, £16.50

Award-winning singer songwriter Hazel O'Connor is back. A soulful introspective dip into Hazel's stunning portfolio, the old, the new and stories from along the way.



Magic Of The Beatles Friday 4th April, 8pm, £18.50

Christmas starts with St Agnes Fountain, bringing you sparkling musicianship, humour and hearty renditions of your favourite Christmas tunes both original and those you know so well.



Peatbog Faeries - Sat 5th April, 8pm, £16 (Con £14)

Bringing Celtic Dance music into the 21st century, Peatbog Faeries give a true flavour of traditional Scottish music with high octane Celtic dance music.

Caravan plus support - Tristan Mackay

Weds 9th April, 8pm, £22.50

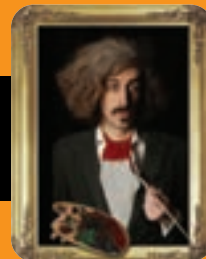
Considered by many to be the undisputed, unsung heroes of the British Prog movement and one of the most formidable acts to emerge from the 60s' progressive rock scene.

Feast of Fiddles - Thurs 10th April, 8pm, £20

A show of huge dynamic range, passionate and joyful playing and a liberal dose of fun!

Tom Wrigglesworth - Fri 11th April, 8pm, £12 (Con £10)

Direct from a sell-out run at the Edinburgh festival, Tom Wrigglesworth returns with an exquisite new show, both poignant and hilarious!



Astaria Quartet – From Prussia With Love

Fri 25th April, 7.30pm, £12.50 (Concessions £8)

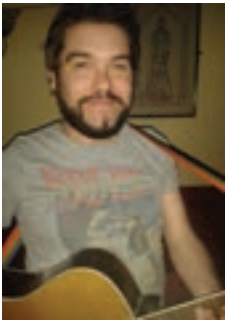
Another chance to hear the talented Astaria String Quartet, performing fantastic music originating from central Europe.

Review - Silver Bullet Showcase | The Golden Cross, Redditch | 15th Mar

Silver Bullet take over The Golden Cross, Redditch for a showcase night of short sets by local acoustic performers.

Alot has been said about Redditch lately; it has been dubbed the most unmusical town in Britain in an article posted on the ITV website. It would have been interesting to see who they polled in their survey to come to this conclusion, but it has caused a righteous backlash in the local musical community!

The Silver Bullet Showcase was an excellent riposte to this negative nonsense and 9 acts stepped up to prove just how musical Rocking Redditch is!



The acts were a mixture of original songs and covers and very diverse in styles. A covers set from Connor Dallaway opened the night in fine style followed by Jon Mitchell with 2 notable originals namely *Zombie Causality* and *The Agency Guy*.

The next two acts, namely Scott Churchill and Joby Capper, also featured excellent and interesting original material and there was abundant evidence that these guys are talented in both writing and performing.



Other acts included Mad Max, Stephanie, Lekka Vibe, Black Tie Event and The Adam and Garth Project; all worthwhile stuff which will be featured again sometime soon I'm sure. As an event this Showcase was well run and Silver Bullet will be looking to stage more events soon in the Redditch area.

My personal preference will always lean towards original songs as they provide an insight into the artists' passions and soul, but with decent non-original interpretations sprinkled in amongst the mix it makes for a wholly worthwhile night worthy of your attention in the future.

Keep an eye out in Slap Mag and elsewhere for such upcoming events..you won't be disappointed!

From gonzo reporter Mad Dad Beethoven

Feature - Watch This Space Films

The DIY music scene is in ruder health than ever, if you know where to look. And the same goes for the indie and now, DIY film scene too. Since Robert Rodriguez set the benchmark with his *Rebel Without a Crew* in the early 1990s, technological advances and the ever falling price of kit has meant that guerrilla film-making is getting easier every year - if you have the time, the dedication, the network and the ideas.

As with music, electronic distribution of film is relatively easy and inexpensive over internet platforms like Youtube. Physical distribution - in this case, getting public screening at a decent venue - is another matter entirely.

It's handy then that Worcester's own Watch This Space Films - an independent film promotions company based in the city - has the aim of getting indie filmmakers' work seen by as many people as possible.

Starting with a now regular film night at the Marr's Bar on the last Tuesday of each month - films already screened including *Alpha Papa*, *Four Lions* and soon, *Gravity* - plans are well underway for bringing premieres for indie filmmakers from the UK to Worcester, as Watch This Space Films Founder Ollie Willis explained:

"The first premiere [Thursday 13th March] was for a locally made indie film called 'The Drinking Class', filmed over two weeks last summer entirely in Malvern. We

managed to get around 100 people down to the Marris Barr, and it was a great night. The cast and crew were in attendance and gave a short talk before and after the showing. This is exactly what I wanted. Not just to show an indie film but to also showcase the people that made it."



It's from independent filmmakers that we get originality, we get stories that matter to them and it's those people and films which we want to promote and help get them the publicity they both need and deserve.

Next for Watch This Space Films is a free independent film magazine for the Midlands and possibly the UK. It will contain indie film news, reviews, interviews and coverage of events such as film festivals and premieres in and around the Midlands. It will also be a place for filmmakers to post adverts looking for actors, crew, locations, equipment or anything else they need in order for their production to go ahead."

This is good news for both film makers and performers - and also for discerning filmgoers interested in something from outside the mainstream. For more information hit Watch This Space Films on the internet or on social media
Website: www.watchthisspacefilmpromotions.com
Twitter: @WTSFilms
Email: watchthisspacefilmpromotions@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/WatchThisSpaceFilmsAtTheMarrisBar

The Lamb & Flag

The Tything, Worcester

Sunday 6th April - 8pm

Help Harry Help Others

Quiz Night - Teams of up to 4

Monday April 7th

Folk Session

Thursday April 10th

Luke Warm and the Cold Fronts

Saturday April 19th

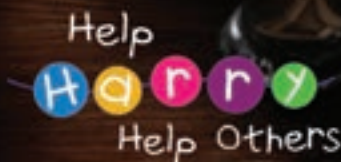
Jazz Singers/ The Higgs Boson Trio

Monday April 21st

Folk Session

Thursday April 24th

Trio Rosbifs



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Monthly Charity Quiz Night

~

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Thursday Curry Night from 7pm
Saturday Breakfasts from 10am
Sunday Roasts from 1pm

~

Monday - Thursday - 3pm-11pm
Friday - Saturday - 12pm-12am
Sunday - 12pm - 11pm

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Interview - I Am Ryan

With their 2nd album fast approaching Slap Mag caught up with Ryan, Scott and Nigel from exciting local outfit I AM RYAN, to plunge the depths of their collective psyches: Here is what we discovered...

SLAPMAG (S) - It's an exciting time for I AM RYAN as we approach the release of your 2nd album. Could you tell us about it and what plans you have for the launch etc?

Ryan - *You're right, it sure is exciting! It's fantastic seeing something we've worked on collectively for the past couple of years really start to come together! It's a tremendous feeling of achievement. We hope the fans like it too! We'll have it available for download and as hard copies very soon!*

Scott - *It will be held at Amber Café Bar in Evesham on the 17th May 2014. It's a chance for a showcase and enjoy performing it to fans, friends and family - it's the pay off!*

S - On your last single I believe I detected a more complete and confident sound with a more rounded palette of sound; would it be fair to say that you've matured as a band and have a more assured direction?

Nigel - *I think that's a great point. The first album included songs that had been written years before the band got together, and that meant playing to the existing song structures. All the new songs for this album have been written in the practice room as a unit giving each member an opportunity to have their input.*

S - To further this theme if I may, there has always been a classy touch of keyboards to your sound; are there any plans for a development of this and/or a change of direction soundwise on the new album?

Nigel - *We have always used keys in the past, on the album and when playing live. It has been something we have consciously introduced in to the new tracks, but have pushed it subtly in the mix. We were keen to give the guitars stronger purpose on this record.*



S - It's good to see that I Am Ryan have a sense of humour at a time when some bands can get a teeny bit precious. Any comments on your 'lighter side'?

Ryan - *We've got a great video coming out to a song called Fridays Night, which is basically shot using our iPhones on a typical Friday Night drinking session. It really shows a different side of the band (one we try to keep under wraps ha ha). It'll be out for you all to see shortly!*

S - Have IAR any plans to spread the word abroad & go Euro & beyond?

Ryan - *We would love to go abroad and I think that will be something we will do eventually. We still have a lot of untouched ground in the UK. If the right opportunity came up, we'd definitely grab it!*

S - This year is shaping up to yet another bumper Festival year, so have IAR got any plans to play in a muddy field in the middle of nowhere sometime soon??

Ryan - *This summer has caught us a bit by surprise and we have ended up pushing this album through a few months quicker than we expected, putting us on the back foot a bit. We are in the middle of booking some good slots at the moment though.*

S - Albums are pretty costly things to record these days, how do you go about funding it as a group?

Scott - *Actually we've been very lucky here! Amber Cafe Bar, a great live music venue in Evesham, has helped us along with some sponsorship! In all honesty, without this we'd probably never have got the album finished - definitely not in 2014 anyway! We're very grateful for this and will be playing a few dates here as well as the launch through 2014. It's actually the same venue we launched our first album in in October 2011, we've got some great memories together there - a lot of good times!*

S - In time-honoured fashion after all of your years touring around and sharing a van, are there any gems of insight you'd like to share with your fans and readers of Slap Mag?

Yep, none of us should be let onto a stage drunk. Some bands lose their inhibitions but we have been known to lose our ability to play... and stand ha ha. Not too often though thankfully!

..So there you have it the full I AM RYAN expose! Thanks to the boys and good luck with the new album, which will be featured in a future Slap Mag soon. Be sure to discover the band further at the following:-

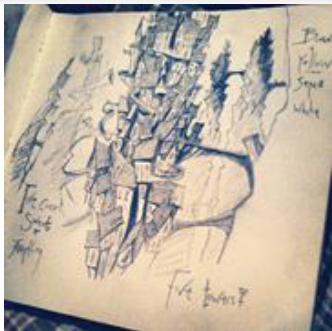
www.iamryan.co.uk

www.facebook.com/iamryanband

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CIRCUIT SWEET – Hereford scene with Naomi Preece

At the end of March we celebrated our 5th birthday with the help of **Rosanna Tasker** who created a fantastic poster for our one day 15% off flash online store sale and then fantastic local artist **Tom Roberts** produced an incredible piece of artwork for our first ever compilation: yes on March 29th we unveiled our first free digital comp featuring local, national and international bands. This is something we are so proud of and you can find the release at www.circuitsweetrecords.bandcamp.com; the album even features some brand new tracks exclusively created for our 5th birthday!



March was also an excellent month for Worcester based 2 piece **A Werewolf!** One of the best local bands around, consisting of duo **Niall & Zack** we predict an undoubtedly rewarding future for them. Niall is a familiar and much loved name known to Circuit Sweet for his powerful instrumental solo act **We Used To Have Horses** and **A Werewolf** are similarly bursting with potential and talent spilling over the edges. Find out more about the pair in the following interview...

Circuit Sweet (CS) – Before we get to the details of your forthcoming EP release 'Because Why Not?' we want to get to know more on you– Firstly introduce yourselves – How long have you been playing and performing live?

Niall– Guitars / Noise / Occasional talking, **Zack**– Drums / Sampler / Even less occasional talking. *As A Werewolf! we have been writing since the beginning of this year, playing our first shows in February and releasing our first EP this March (out now! Ed). However we have both been in bands from our early teens onwards.*

CS – What was it that first got you to pick up your instruments– and then to write your own compositions and direct your creativity?

N – *Buddy Holly was the reason I started playing the guitar and play a sunburst strat, but what pushed my creativity was hearing bands like Botch, Minus The Bear, Tera Melos who really pushed and still push music in all directions, this inspired me to find my own style and to push music forward as well.*

Z – *My Dad took me to see Rush when I was 10 and as soon as Neil Peart play one of his famous solos I just wanted to play the drums from then on.*

CS – In the short time **A Werewolf!** have been together you've already accomplished so much and we at Circuit Sweet are thrilled to support your journey. But for those that are unaware, how did **A Werewolf!** form and where did the name come from?

N – *Aw thanks. We just plucked **Aware Wolf** out of nowhere but **Aware Wolf** was taken so we just changed it to **A Werewolf! Simple**s.*

CS – What outside influences trigger your creativity and create your unique sound?

N – *In regards to outside influences I write riffs while watching Ice Hockey, so I suppose **The Toronto Maple Leafs** are my outside influence.*

Z – *I really like anime and reading stuff. I'm pretty nerdy. I don't know how it influences anything though. I just do music just cos I like it!*

CS – How would you personally describe your own sound in one word (**Ours** would be extreme)

N – *Dischords.* **Z** – *Sparkles.*

CS – In one word, what does **A Werewolf** mean to you?

N – *Everything.* **Z** – *Fun*

CS – With regards to your debut EP 'Because Why Not?' tell us what it means to have some physical, finished product as it were?

N – *It means everything to me, I personally am very proud of this EP and what me and Zack have done.* **Z** – *Awesome fun times!*

CS – Have you got many live shows in the pipeline?

N & Z – *We have a few and are always booking more, 5th April – **Talk Bar**, Birmingham, 20th April – **The Flapper**, Birmingham*

CS – Enlighten us to what can we look forward to from you in the future?

N & Z – *Loads of gigging and touring and new recordings, and just general weirdness.*

As for April, **Circuit Sweet Cottages** are re-locating so we may be quiet for a while but be assured we'll be back bigger and better than ever ASAP!

On April 19th we will be celebrating **Record Store Day** at Worcester's **Rise Records** April 19th together with some familiar faces. Also this year we are delighted to be sponsoring a new festival in Cardiff in May and will be heavily promoting the event and featured artists playing on our website until May 4th.

Finally we are calling out to any local bands who would be interested in performing at this years' **Ross-On-Wye** **May Fayre**. If you are interested please email us or tweet us @circuitsweet and we will be in touch.

CD Review - A Werewolf - Because, Why Not?

The two-piece is pretty much a thing at the moment. Slaves, God Damn, and locally Broken Oak Duet... it's a thing. Nothing wrong with that. And, coming out of the same local stable as Officer Down, We Used to Have Horses and a few other hardcore outfits from the Vale, we also have Evesham's instrumental two-piece guitar and drums combo A Werewolf! – whose debut release this is. Loosely bracketed as math-core, with its coruscating blaze of unorthodox time signatures, frequent time changes and playfully irreverent attitude towards traditional melody, Because Why Not? is actually a whole load of noisy fun.

Certainly, the first few bars of opener *Hell Bent on Duck Slaughter* and passages throughout the other six tracks on this EP do amount to deliberate aural assault and battery, akin to the functionally unlistenable (but rather ace) Mike Patton / Dillinger Escape Plan Collaboration Hollywood Squares. To be clear, these blasts are at the very limit of the speed

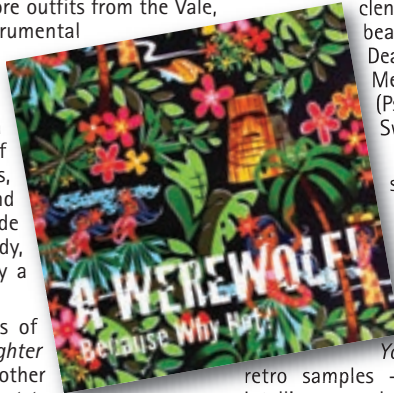
at which a human being can actually hit something rhythmically – which is both impressive in and of itself, and compelling as a musical spectacle. These blasts are however deliberately placed, teeth-clenched punctuation marks between some beautifully tight refrains (*Skanka Ya Dead?*), steam-hammer riff work (*Come at Me Bro!*) and sweet melodic hooks (*Psycho Scientist vs Supermassive Giant Swan*).

There is an analogue precision to the sound here, reminiscent entirely of a bass guitar-less and more free-form jazz minded *Shellac* (*Donkey Bong*) and to a lesser extent the sainted *Big Black* and the *Jesus Lizard*. With some darkly absurd song titles like *Cut Yourself off at the Knees and Pretend You're Tom Cruise* – and a few choice retro samples – there's also a sense of humour, intelligence and an artistic ambition that it's really hard not to like.

<http://awerewolf.bandcamp.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/awerewolfawerewolf>

Ed Ling



Great Malvern Hotel

Month of April

Curry & A Carlsberg £9.95

All curries are served with Pilau Rice, Popadum, Mango Chutney & Pickles (or glass of Chardonnay 175ml)

Chicken Korma served in a creamy coconut & yogurt sauce with almonds & spices

Chicken Jalfrezi served in a medium hot curry sauce

Chicken Chettinad served in a South Indian style of tomato paste, coconut cream

Beef Madras served in a hot spicy curry sauce

Beef Vindaloo served in a hot & spicy sauce with tomatoes, cinnamon & cumin

Lamb Rogan Josh served in a medium hot curry sauce

Raj Vegetable Curry served in a medium hot spicy curry sauce

Chicken Tikka Massala served in a creamy tikka sauce

Chickpea, Potato & Spinach Curry served in a coconut sauce

Kedgeree curried fish served with Dhal

Featured Artist – Tobias Hickey

Tobias Hickey is an artist teaching students on the Illustration degree course at Worcester University. Based in Brighton, he studied for his BA at Liverpool School of Art, before going on to do an MA degree at Central St. Martins – where he used to watch Wayne Sleep exercise from his Covent Garden roof top studio!

After working as a freelance illustrator for 15 years he began teaching the odd day at art school at which time the opportunity to teach for one day a week at Worcester University arose. After a few months he was offered a post- not planned, but after a solitary existence the project intrigued him enough to say yes and he has been here ever since. He has been commissioned by The Guardian, High Life (British Airways on line magazine) and similar publications for his illustrative representations of worldly, political and fantastical scenes.

I talked to Tobias about illustration, Worcester University, how he feels about life split between Brighton & Worcester and watching the city develop its vibrant artistic presence.

"Illustration is brilliantly democratic; everyone has a shared experience of picture books as a child which may continue to comics, editorial (newspapers & magazines), advertising or gig posters. At the heart of the practice is the need to communicate, convey an emotion, narrative or concept. This problem solving aspect is challenging and creatively demanding, sometimes frustrating and elusive but ultimately fascinating."

He started off as a picture book illustrator but soon realised he didn't have the motivation or mind set to maintain a character or narrative over the course of a book. Editorial offered him the opportunity of demanding deadlines and the need to conceptualise an opinion or view within the boundaries of a single image.



"I enjoy the freedom of working for a wide range of clients and responding to an array of subjects- within the same day I may produce a political piece for the Guardian as well as a lifestyle piece for a magazine such as GQ."

Tobias' influences change constantly yet are consistently motivated by Alan Fletcher, Paul Rand, the films of Powell & Pressburger and Toulouse Lautrec. *"Inspiration needs to be a daily occurrence so whether it's a piece of packaging, an advert or a random conversation/ piece of writing, I'm always curious."*

"Living in Brighton but working part of the week in Worcester provides quite a contrast of environment. I've been familiar with Worcester for over 20 years and the change over the past 5 or so years has been striking. I think this has much to do with the University and the energy and diversity students bring to an area. At the same time the emergence of a county wide artistic offer, galleries, arts networking and design companies such as Beard, Worcester is starting to establish a visible and tangible creative presence in the city."

Tobias is encouraging people with an interest in arts to come along to artist talks being hosted at The Hive monthly.

"The collaborative project between the University and the county council has provided the city with The Hive library- a fantastic facility that provides access for everyone to artistic, cultural and theoretical content. Our Illustration department has transferred our visiting



artist talks from campus to The Studio within the Hive to build upon this accessibility, and make our events become a meeting ground between academia and the wider public. We hope to encourage a wider dialogue between ourselves, creative industries in the area and international practitioners and make this accessible to all."

The University Illustration department also participates in The Beeline Festival, another opportunity to interact with schools and establish an understanding of Illustration as a subject. "Whether the students are facilitating a workshop with school age students or having their work featured in a recent New York magazine, they are contributing to a broader understanding and access to the subject."

In the near future, we have some very ambitious plans which are starting to become a reality, both locally but internationally, so watch this space....."

The next artist talk at the Hive is on Thursday 3rd April in the Studio with Laura Carlin talking about her work.

Kate Cox

Review – Stomp & Holler | Theatre on the Step, Bridgnorth | 8th March

Stomp and Holler, the 6 piece New Orleans styled blues and brass band, took stage in the wonderfully intimate, Theatre On The Steps, with a small change to their line up. Small but significant, Abby Brant, having been 'stolen' by Jasper Carrot, for his touring show, we were about to see for the first time, Phil Bond. Phil has played with the Steve Gibbons band among many, the marked difference, is stature, he towers over the rest of S&H, and obviously, a bit lower in pitch vocally, than Abby! For those who have not visited Bridgnorth, the theatre is a lovely old chapel dating from the 1830's, sat halfway down the escarpment that stands over the Severn. Access is via a footpath, but inside is worth the effort a steeply rising balcony overlooks the auditorium and stage.

120 had joined S&H for the evening, and the band did not disappoint, bursting out into, 'Crazy Up In Here', seemed very poignant, it quickly became apparent that bassist Chris Lomas was suffering a little as he croaked and ground his way through, 'Start It Up'; the band were not going to help him out, as he undermined the 'Cocker' grit of Oliver Carpenter. That grit was put to good use in the suitably funereal paced dirge of 'St. James Infirmary Blues'; paced to last, hence so much more enjoyable. From Cocker to cockney perhaps, asking 'Why's It Always Me', and a change of direction as Phil leaves the keyboard and takes to the accordion, bringing a new dimension to this tongue in cheek song. Martin beats up a rumbling thunderstorm on drums, as he fires up into the bands fabulous take on 'Webtop Checker'. John Sanderson's sax coming over as beautifully as ever, along with some lovely guitar riffs of Dave Carroll, not to forget the added brass of Oliver's trumpet.



Holler demonstrate why they are such a popular band. Fine musicianship, a bit of fire, a pinch of passion, a measure of humour, an Orleans cocktail, stirred along by Oliver in his guise as a goatee bearded, blues man. An excellent evenings entertainment.

Graham Munn



A short liquid break, and back to business, and another change from the past as 'Big Chief', evolves from an instrumental version, to Phil's mellow vocals, used to effect as he attacks the keyboards. A quick breeze through New Orleans jazz swing of 'Umbrella In My Drink' and 'Evangeline', and we are lined up for another explosive song, a bit of rock & roll with 'Musta Notta Gotta', hot dog, another excuse for Martin to drive the rhythm hard and fast, no one is left out as Stomp &

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Tuesday 1 April 2014

Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic (Tina V and Mike Mann)
The Firefly, Worcester

Open Mic at the 'Oddies'
The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

Perdido Street Jazz Band
Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Open mic
Great malvern Hotel, Malvern

Wednesday 2 April 2014

Marzy's Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Thomas Ford
Cafe Rene

Open mic with the Beefy Boys
Jailhouse, Hereford

Thursday 3 April 2014

Vincent Flatts
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Dan Greenaway and Alex Rainsford
Artrix, Bromsgrove-

Surprise Attacks – Hop Priests, The Sick Livers, 10:94
Firefly, Worcester

Dan James Open mic
The Chestnut, Worcester

Hazel O'Connor, Cole Stacey & Joseph O'Keefe
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Music Sessions with Paul and Ray
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Friday 4 April 2014

Roving Crows
St James C Of E Church, Drake Street, Welland

Johnny Kowalski and the Sexy Weirdos, Culture Dub
Orchestra, The Harlequin Dynamite Marching Band and
DJ sets from Will Itsasecret
The Hare and Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham

Underdogs
Queens Head, Wolverley

Magic of the Beatles
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

CoverJunkies
Bushwackers, Worcester

Midnight City
The Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

This Wicked Tongue, A Poetic Yesterday plus support
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Paul Lamb and the King Snakes
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Mercy House
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Blackjack
Bedwardine worcester

Otis Mack and the Tubby Tubsters
Cafe Rene

The Delray Rockets
The Hunters Inn. Longdon, Gloucestershire

Dave Onions
The Old Stags Head, Penn

Remembering Kurt Cobain
Moochers, Stourbridge

Sax 'n' Axe
Millers Arms, Pershore

Lawrence Jones
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Saturday 5 April 2014

Junction 7

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Quo Motion

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Ska Night – Cracked Actors & Social Ignition

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Solely Mourning album launch featuring Tina V

Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton

Al Jolsons Dog

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

Hagglebag

The Chestnut, Worcester

Rich Goble

The Bull's Head,, High Street,, Inkberrow

The Manfreds

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Peatbog Fairies

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Ronin

Iron Road Rock Bar, The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Jay & Eli

The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

Kinver Edge

The Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Bordewey, Young & Gittens

Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Hennesea

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Hennesea

Great malvern Hotel, Malvern

Slyde Alive

The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Boogaloos

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Magic Room Productions

Bedwardine worcester

Baracudas

Wolverley Sports and Social Club, Wolverley

Mojohooker

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Sunday 6 April 2014

Jazz Express

The Chestnut, Worcester

Jam Night Hosted by Clive

Oast House, Redditch

Paul Lamb & Chad Strents

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Nigel Passey

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Monday 7 April 2014

Keith Slater / Tony Arris & Guests

Queens Head, Wolverley

open mic with Dave Onions

Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Folk Session

Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Open mic

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 8 April 2014

Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly

Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel

Millers Arms, Pershore

Open Mic (Tina V and Mike Mann)

The Firefly, Worcestershire

Perdido Street Jazz Band

Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Mouth & Music

Boars Head, Kidderminster

Open mic

Great malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic at the 'Oddies'

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

Wednesday 9 April 2014

Orchestra of the Swan: Raphael Wallfisch

Number 8, Pershore

Irish Session

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Marzy's Jam Night

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Caravan, Tristan Mackay

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Malandra, Fatal Chaos, Adamantium

The RoadHouse, Lifford Lane, Birmingham

open mic session with Griff and Rod

Wick social club, Pershore

Music @ The Morgan

The Morgan, Great Malvern

Turn and Run ,Wicked Snakes, Skinhorse, Fetus Christ

The Hersman, Hereford

Thursday 10 April 2014

George Montague

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

C-Jam

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Lounge Toad

Great malvern Hotel, Malvern

Eddy Morton
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Feast of Fiddles
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Luke Warm and the Cold Fronts
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Folk Club
Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Friday 11 April 2014

The Ron Jeremy Band
Drummonds, Worcester

Fatty Mango
Millers Arms, Pershore

Phil Sayers Born to Boogie Band
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Players
Great malvern Hotel, Malvern

Rattlesnake Jake
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Laszlo 12-3am
Bushwackers, Worcester

This Elegant Chaos
Moochers, Stourbridge

Johnny Kowalski & the Sexy Weirdo
Cafe Renes

Jam Night
Rocklands Social Club, Redditch

Psychedelic Warlords
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Roving Crows
The Globe at Hay, Newport Street, Hay-on-Wye

Dave Onions
George & Dragon, Belper

Massive Head Trauma, Slack Granny & The Youth Within
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Seventh Era, Adamantium, Frozen in Fear, Black Tongue
Messiah**
The Baseline, New Street, Dudley

The Delray Rockets
The Lamp Tavern, Dudley, West Midlands

Tom Wrigglesworth
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Suzi & The Backbeats
Queens Head, Wolverley

Saturday 12 April 2014

Lynsey Leigh Davies
The Rainbow Hill Club, Worcester

Allstars Dub Band plus DJ Scratch Parry
West Malvern Social Club

Complete Madness
Evesham Arts Centre, Victoria Avenue, Evesham

Raymor
The Victory, Hereford

Mods V Rude Boys
Wolverley Sports and Social Club, Wolverley

Nothing Like a Whale, Linerunners
Great malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Lazy Sunday – Tina V, Sadie Femming, Christof Jennings,
Hannah & Richie**
Cafe Bliss, Arts Workshop, Worcester

Journeyman
The Bedwardine, Worcester

The Dilema Council
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Linerunners
The Unicorn, Malvern

Starving Rascals
Moochers, Stourbridge

Voodoo Blue
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Skrood
Barley Mow, Droitwich

The Ferrets
The Chestnut, Worcester

The Mary Hinge Experience
The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

Mowtown Theme Night
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Neon Hearts, Vault of Eagles + Pre Sleep Monologue
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Celtic Flames
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Bad Boys
Pavillion, Worcester

Sunday 13 April 2014

Paul White & Ray Mitton
The Chestnut, Worcester

Jam Night Hosted by Clive
Oast House, Redditch

Panix Station
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Monday 14 April 2014

Open mic
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 15 April 2014

Stripped Down Blues' Blues Night
Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

Open mic
Great malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic at the 'Oddies'
The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly
Queens Head, Wolverley

Perdido Street Jazz Band

Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Open Mic (Tina V and Mike Mann)

The Firefly, Worcester

The Farriers Acoustic Monthly Music Session

The Farriers Arms, Worcester

Wednesday 16 April 2014

Bridie Jackson and The Arbour

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Marzy's Jam Night

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan

The Morgan, Great Malvern

Live @ Glos Acoustic Showcase

Cafe Rene

Irish Session

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Thursday 17 April 2014

West Malvern Open Mic

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Dan James' Open Mic Night

The Chestnut, Worcester

Music Sessions with Paul & Ray

Great malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Terry Clark Band

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Gambia Schools Project Fundraiser

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

IAASM

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Music for Tia - Laslo more TBC

Marris Bar, Worcester

The Remi Harris Gypsy Jazz Project

The Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

Mark Grist

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Open Mic

Iron Road Rock Bar, The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Friday 18 April 2014

The Commandments

Drummonds, Worcester

Stomp & Holler

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Skrood

Cross Keys, Bredons Hardwick nr Tewkesbury

Sam Eden

The Anchor Inn, Eckington

Owen Tromans & James Summerfield

The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Fabulous Bordellos

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Universal

Moochers, Stourbridge

Tina V

The Swan, Barbourne

Thee Ones

Cafe Rene

Woo Town

Antelope, Warwick

Trevor Burton Band

Queens Head, Wolverley

Drifter

The Rock Tavern, Wilden Lane, Stourport

Billy Club + The Vile

Boars Head, Kidderminster

The Great Malvern Jazz weekend

www.malvernjazzweekend.co.uk

Surprise attacks - Ash Is Robot, Pohl, Hey You Guys, Holy Casper

Firefly, Worcester

Ray Mytton Band

Millers Arms, Pershore

Saturday 19 April 2014

Eric Andersen, Ben Reel

The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Voodoo

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Brothers Groove

Moochers, Stourbridge

Suzi and the Backbeats

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

The Great Malvern Jazz weekend

www.malvernjazzweekend.co.uk

Remedy live

The Unicorn Weobley

Collective 43 - Madame Moonshine's Speakeasy

Spotlight & Nextdoor, Lower Trinity Street, Digbeth

TBC

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Laetitia Sadier Trio (of Stereolab), Broken Oak Duet

Malvern Cube, Malvern

Maz Mitrenko Band

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

No Exit

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

Isolated Atoms, This Wicked Tongue

Iron Road Rock Bar, The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Rattlesnake Jake

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Skewwhiff - Album Launch

with support from The Cracked Actors

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Skank-a-Mania, Stiff Joints, Counting Coins,
The Indecision Et Too Spicy
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Gwyn Ashton
The Crown, Martley

Phatti Mango
The Chestnut, Worcester

Jazz Singers/ The Higgs Boson Trio
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Skint
Bedwardine, Worcester

The Retrophonics
The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

Breach of the Peace
Pavillion, Worcester

Sunday 20 April 2014

TBC, Da Vinci
Hennessey's Bar, Digbeth , Birmingham

The Great Malvern Jazz weekend
www.malvernjazzweekend.co.uk

Rockabilly Riot, Drugstore Cowboys, The Bravo
Boys, Thee Emperors Et 10:94+ Burlesque with
Scarlett O'Sparkle
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Grey Wolf
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Bon Jovi Experience
Iron Road Rock Bar, The Railway Hotel, Evesham

Gastric Band
Masons Arms, Wichenford

Jam Night Hosted by Clive
Oast House, Redditch

Monday 21 April 2014

Open mic
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

The Rough Diamonds
West Malvern British Legion Club

open mic with Dave Onions
Cock Et Magpie, Bewdley

St George's Day Celebration TBC
The Chestnut, Worcester

Folk Session
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Tuesday 22 April 2014

Perdido Street Jazz Band
Fox Et Hounds, Lulsley

Open Mic at the 'Oddies'
The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open mic
Great malvern Hotel, Malvern

Open Mic (Tina V and Mike Mann)
The Firefly, Worcester

Wednesday 23 April 2014

Marzy's Jam Night
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Irish Session
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Thursday 24 April 2014

Da Vinci, Claire Boswell
The Roadhouse, Lifford Lane, Birmingham

Tom Walker Trio
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Bromsgrove Folk Club
Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

Gwyn Ashton
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Zoe Spenser
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Phil Beer, Sunjay
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Trio Rosbifs
Lamb and Flag, Worcester

Lounge Toad
Great malvern Hotel, Malvern

Gary Delaney
Artrix, Bromsgrove

West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Friday 25 April 2014

Deborah Bonham, The Humdrum Express
Moochers, Stourbridge

The Adam And Garth Project
Royal Oak, Studley

Kumari Seven
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Paul Cody
Great malvern Hotel, Malvern

Mother Popcorn
Drummonds, Worcester

Undercover
Millers Arms, Pershore

Voodoo Blue
Queens Head, Wolverley

Roving Crows
The Artrix, Bromsgrove

Who's Next
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Junction 7
The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Them good old boys
Wolverley Sports and Social Club, Wolverley

Vo & Tyler
The Wellington, Chances Pitch, Malvern

Cracker & the Woodpeckers
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Astaria Quartet – From Prussia With Love
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Jack Ratts
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Saturday 26 April 2014

Journeyman
The Chestnut, Worcester

90's Night.. With Special Guests TBA
Boars Head, Kidderminster

Guns Or Roses and Subhuman Race
The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Executives
Bedwardine, Worcester

The Silver Bullet (variety of acts)
Redditch United Football Club

Chicago Bytes
Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Voodoo
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Hotfoot
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

The River Rea Band
Pavillion, Worcester

Music Night
The Victoria Works, Studley

The Ex-Presidents
The Crown Inn (St. Johns), Worcester

Captain Accident
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Watch This Space Films presents...
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Patrick Monahan
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Sunday 27 April 2014

Buskstop open Mic
Imagine, Evesham town centre

Jam Night Hosted by Clive
Oast House, Redditch

Jazz with Remi Harris Trio
Queens Head, Wolverley

The Bare Bones Boogie Band
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Maddi Stimpson
The Chestnut, Worcester

Monday 28 April 2014

Open mic
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 29 April 2014

Perdido Street Jazz Band
Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly
Queens Head, Wolverley

Open Mic (Tina V and Mike Mann)
The Firefly, Worcester

Open Mic at the 'Oddies'
The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

Open mic
Great malvern Hotel, Malvern

Folk Night
Millers Arms, Pershore

Wednesday 30 April 2014

Marzy's Jam Night
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Music @ The Morgan
The Morgan, Great Malvern

Gaz Brookfield
Cafe Rene

Irish Session
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Are you a Venue owner?
A Promoter? A Band or Solo
Performer?**

Is your gig listed above?

**If not its because we didn't
know about it!**

**You can now upload your event
at www.slapmag.co.uk**

THE MARR'S BAR

APR 2014



Owen Tromans
Friday 18th April

Friday 4th

The Mercy House

£5 on the door

Saturday 5th

Slyde Alive

£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Friday 11th

Massive Head Trauma

Slack Granny & The Youth Within

£3 a ticket £5 on the door

Saturday 12th - Private Party

Thursday 17th

Music for Tia - Laslo more TBC

£2 in aid of Antony Nolan Charity

Friday 18th

Owen Tromans

James Summerfield

£3 a ticket £5 on the door

Saturday 19th

Skewwhiff - Album Launch

with Cracked Actors

£3 a ticket £5 on the door

Friday 25th

Who's Next

£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Saturday 26th

Guns Or Roses

and Subhuman Race

£10 a ticket £12 on the door

Tuesday 29th

Watch This Space Films

presents...

£6 on the door

Includes free chilli and nachos

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £3

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk

01905 613336

Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue

Available for private hire