

SLAP

Issue 45

Mar 2015

MAGAZINE



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February: all doom and gloom they say but dontcha believe it, especially when you read where we've been and what we've been up to.

In this our issue 45(!) we report from the wilds of Herefordshire, well Ledbury, to the iniquitous fleshpots of darkest Worcester. Much juicy reading to be had and some fab photography as ever.

If it sounds like I'm praising my own magazine well I am, because please never forget that Slap wouldn't exist if it wasn't for our wonderful and voluntary (again please don't forget) contributors.

They and of course the kaleidoscopic range of talented performers across the arts in our region are the lifeblood of Slap Mag. If this all sounds a bit gushing, well I make no apologies and it IS Oscars Season after all!

It is also Brits Season but perhaps the less said as it was a case of the bland leading the bland. Which is something that could never be said about our cover artist Abel Gray: this Redditch born Renaissance man is interviewed in depth and provides us with insights into his genre spanning creative endeavours. From 'alternative' hip-hop to manga style artwork Abel is indeed a multi-media marvel worthy of your attention.

Meanwhile we are feeling optimistic as Spring is nearby, our collective sap is rising (uurgh) and we focus on all the upcoming local summer festivals in a titanic two page spread.

So as we cautiously welcome all things verdant and vernal and await some warmth, I will leave you to luxuriate in all the artistic riches contained within our humble organ (uurgh again).

Thanks as always for reading and all your support.

Light Heart-Ed



BBC
introducing...



Ros returns to her Redditch Record Roots

Exciting news for us vinyl headz as Redditch retro record specialists, **Vintage Trax**, is set to open its first out of town shop – and in an area owner **Ros Sidaway** knows well.

Following two small pop-up shops in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre, Vintage Trax opens its doors on Birchfield Road, Headless Cross, to vinyl record enthusiasts on the last day in February.

"The business has grown steadily over the past two years, and our preloved ranges have expanded to encompass most music genres" explains owner Ros Sidaway "This new shop gives us much more space for stock, including an area dedicated solely to 7" and 12" singles."

Though the location obviously doesn't have the huge numbers of shoppers that the Kingfisher Centre enjoys, Ros is confident that the gamble to open out of the town centre will pay off.

"Record shops are 'destination' shops – vinyl record buyers are prepared to travel to find what they want. We are on a main road, just 2 minutes off the A448 dual carriageway, and on the 55H/56H Redditch Circular bus route so access is very good - and there is free on road parking"

Ros is looking forward to welcoming customers, both returning and new, to the shop, which just happens to be a few doors down from her childhood home, and also from the house where Led Zeppelin drummer, John Bonham was born.

"This street holds special memories for me personally. The shop was a sweet shop (The Chocolate Box) when I was a little girl and the fact that John Bonham was born on Birchfield Rd makes it all the more fitting to have a record shop here today" adds Ros, who is also Treasurer of the John Bonham Memorial Fund.

Vintage Trax will officially open on Saturday 28th February at 10.30am at 104 Birchfield Road, Headless Cross, Redditch..

We at Slap will be visiting in force very soon and it's heartwarming to see the continued Rise of Records as Vinyl marches on (ok don't get carried away! Digital Ed)

For further information see website [VintageTrax .co.uk](http://VintageTrax.co.uk).

Rock of Changes

Malvern Rocks have changed their dates. Shortly after their last event, the Malvern Rocks team checked they wouldn't clash with other local festivals and chose the 24-26 July . . . only to discover that **Nozstock** have decided upon the same weekend! Seeing as several of the organisers will be languishing in the Land of Noz, Malvern a rocks will now be held from **July 31 to August 2**. To apply to play at Malvern Rocks fill in the application form on the web site. Or, if you would like to get involved with the festival in any way, the organisers would love to hear from you. They need stewards, fund raisers, PA operators and general volunteers. See www.malvernrocks.com for details.

Funky Bunker

Malvern's first dedicated rehearsal room and recording studio opens this month. **The Funky Bunker** will hold their launch party on Saturday 7 March to show off the custom built studio and recording facility. Invites are available from their web site: www.funky-bunker.com.

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LAKEFEST

Lovely Lakefest Line-up

Lakefest have announced **The Magic Numbers, The Selector, Billy Bragg, Dreadzone, Ferocious Dog, Hayseed Dixie** and the **Cheeky Girls** among their headlining acts for their fifth bash at the very scenic South Worcestershire waterside event in early August - seems like a fun selection!!

OMG Indeed!

The recently very hyped-up **OMG Live** young music 'opportunity' event which promised a prize appearance at the LG Arena in Birmingham apparently lost its funding and collapsed overnight leaving regional organisers in both Herefordshire and Worcestershire to make last-minute arrangements themselves to compensate all the acts who'd entered and performed - very sad...

Woosey Worcester Charabanc

Coaches will be laid on from the Hills to ferry fans to and from West Malvern and Link Top to **Matt Woosey's** gig at the Marr's Bar on Friday 20th of March with accompaniment from 'Big' **Dave Small** - the very unique bluesmaster has had a interstellar last six months or so with awards a-plenty and a bucketload of national airplay - it's going to be an invasion folks!!



Popular Hereford Degree

Hereford College Of Arts are offering a new diploma in Popular Music starting in October that'll be the equivalent of three A-levels and will offer pathways to students who want to work as composers, producers, teachers, event managers or music journalists - check out hca.ac.uk for more info...



Severn Sounds Super

Severn Sounds Festival, held at **Pavilion In The Park** in Tybridge Street Worcester from May 29-31 have announced that they'll be featuring **Haunted Souls** as headliners on the Friday - with other local acts **Done By Sunrise, The Secrets, Byron Hare, Sasha McVeigh** and **Tom Forbes** among those already confirmed - with the Saturday headliner still to be announced - all money raised from the event will go to New Hope and Acorn's Children's Hospice



City Music Festival To Support Sexual Abuse Survivors

MONEY raised by this year's Worcester Music Festival is set to help fund the launch of a new, county support service for children who have suffered sexual abuse.



Photography by Andy Burton

Worcestershire Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WRSASC) has been chosen as the festival charity for 2015, benefitting from fundraising before and during the event from 18-20 September.

Since 1986, WRSASC has provided a free, confidential and non-judgmental support service for individuals aged over 16 who have experienced rape or sexual abuse at any time in their lives.

Now, WRSASC is looking to expand its own counselling service to provide much needed specialist therapeutic

counselling to boys and girls aged 11+. These children are some of the most vulnerable people within society with many having been abused repeatedly, often by different perpetrators.

Siân Patterson, policy and sustainability officer for WRSASC, said: "We are so thrilled to be Worcester Music Festival's charity of the year. While the money raised will obviously be extremely welcome, being part of an event we've watched grow and attract more and more interest every year is also an excellent way of raising awareness of what we do. A lot of people do not know we even exist and support from the festival will help enormously."

Festival chairman **Ant Robbins** said: "We received some very compelling applications to become our charity this year, but we felt WRSASC was the strongest. Their desire to launch a service for younger people is something we feel festival-goers will particularly support and we look forward to working closely with the charity in the coming months."

Worcester Music Festival is a free, annual music celebration to support and encourage live, local and original music from the county and across the UK and is staged in pubs, clubs, cafes, and historic buildings around or near the city centre. Festival events take place at over 30 venues, with a line-up in the region of 250 bands and musicians.

Since the festival was launched in 2008, it has raised more than £35,000 for charity.

For more on WRSASC, visit www.wrsasc.org.uk.

Stiff Joints Festival Warm-Up Show

As the ultimate festival teaser, Kidderminster's Stiff Joints will be performing a free entry warm-up gig at the Marr's Bar on Saturday, September 5. Get along to this feast of ska and punk revelry!



Photography by Brenden Stephens

For more on Worcester Music Festival, visit www.wumufest.co.uk and follow the fest on Twitter @worcsmusicfest.

March already! There is so much happening in Worcestershire with loads of new projects and ideas popping up. It's great to see the shire buzzing with creative energy and with things to look out for in Worcester, Malvern, Bromsgrove, Kidderminster and more, get exploring!



Clik Clik are gearing up for another busy year, fresh interactive concepts are being created and new commissions being taken. If you have an event that needs that festival-feel experience, from walkabout and pop-up performance, quirky photo-booth style fun, workshops and installations, drop a line to www.clikclikcollective.com

Cut It Out

Gloucester City Museum is set for some exciting viewing this month with a street art exhibition called **Cut It Out**. Gloucester's own stencil artist **'Beastie'** hosts



the show collaborating with internationally acclaimed artists **Zabou** and **Tankpetrol** to bring the walls of Gloucester Museum to life! The show begins on 21st march and runs until 20th June.



www.gloucestermuseums.co.uk

Cubeplay

Playland is the first show programmed for the all-new **Weekend Cube** live performance, programmed by **Reaction Theatre Makers**.



In the heart of rural South Africa, a travelling amusement park has opened its gates. With the country in the grips of a brutal apartheid regime, the park promises an evening of thrills and laughter.

They would like you to join them for the show and a drink in the bar afterwards. Aiming to bring you an eclectic mix of innovative work, from children's theatre to stand-up comedy over the coming months, they hope you will support them with this creative endeavour.

Friday 6th March 8pm. Malvern Cube £9/ £7 (concs)

For info please call Michelle 07881 376 721 Tiffany 07964 458637, Malvern Cube 01684 575363 or you can get tickets from Carnival Records or Ticket Source.

KAF Call For Artists!



Continuing on from **Kidderminster Arts Festival's** successful Small Scale Commissions in 2013 & 2014, the fabulous **KAF** now seeks proposals from Worcestershire based artists to create site-specific works on the theme of *'Transformation'*. The work will need to be presented for at least one day during the festival August 8th – 22nd.

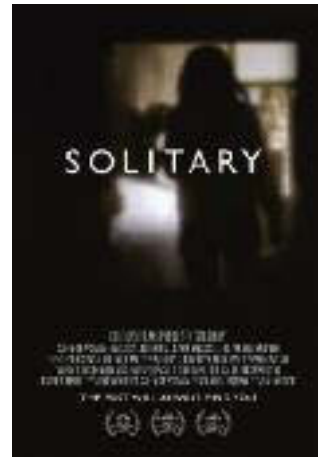
Please call 01562 732 977 for further information on this exciting opportunity.

Solitary

Coming up at the Uni, there is an exclusive private screening of feature film **Solitary** + Masterclass Q&A with the film's Producer, writer & star, **Katharine McEwan**.

Solitary tells the story of party-girl Nora who is forced to move back home with her aging father. However inside her childhood home, the ghosts of her past begin to haunt her, until the secret she has buried for so long is finally revealed.

The film was shot entirely in Southsea & Portsmouth and stars award-winning actress **Katharine McEwan** (Clubhouse, Alien Armageddon), **Kevin McGowan** (East Enders, Coronation Street), the debut of **Sarina Taylor** and a score composed by Queen's drummer **Roger Taylor**.



Tues 10th March 1.30pm. FREE. Worcester University Room EE G087, Unwin Lecture Hall.

Accordion Rioting?

A new piece of work from the **Perfect Circle Youth Theatre** is coming to Malvern this month; *"The Accordion Shop"* by **Cush Jumbo** is the Perfect Circle's 7th National Theatre Connections project.

"Mister Ellody has quietly kept his accordion shop going on his local high street for generations. One day, he steps out of his door and witnesses an extraordinary incident: hundreds of young people are surging onto the street, and they've all received the same text message on their phones, which simply says "RIOT. THE ROAD. 7pm TONIGHT."

To find out what happens next get along to **Malvern Cube** Friday 13th & Saturday 14th March at 7pm. Tickets on the door £5 / £3 under 18s.

If Wet Latest

And don't forget!!!!... **If Wet**, covering mechanical musical instruments in the fourth show airing on the 29th March 2-4pm on **Sound Art Radio**.

Dancefest guest workshops Dancefest Creatives: Equinox

(aged 20+) Led by **Marie Oldaker**

Sunday 22 March, 10am-1pm, at **The Angel Centre**, Worcester WR1 3QN

An open, welcoming, practical workshop for anyone interested in contemporary dance, theatre, art and music, exploring how choreographers take inspiration from the everyday things around them. Suitable for both experienced dancers and for people who have never danced before; a sense of adventure and imagination is encouraged!

£15/£12 concessions



Lift workshops

with guest teacher **Sioda Martin**

Sunday 29 March at The Angel Centre, Worcester WR1 3QN

Sioda trained at Northern School of Contemporary Dance and has toured nationally and internationally with Motionhouse Dance Theatre, ACE dance and music, Mobius Dance Theatre and Parlor Dance.

Contact and Lifts Workshop

(aged 18+) 10.30am-1pm. An advanced workshop for dance practitioners and teachers, including contact work, improvisation and lifts. Professional dancer Sioda Martin will share techniques and tools for you to use as a dancer and as a teacher. £12.50/£8 concessions

Be prepared to Lift

(aged 13-21) 2-4pm. A fun and structured introduction to movement tasks using contact partner work to lift and support dancing bodies. Be prepared to lift and be lifted! This workshop is part of Evolve, a youth dance project kindly supported by funding from Worcester Arts Council. £9

Visit dancefest.co.uk or ring Dancefest on 01905 611199 to book or find out more.

TALK TO US

Talk to us any time you like, in your own way, and off the record – about whatever's getting to you.



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'In Another Light' Finale

Contemporary art lights up the dark hours!

As the spring equinox takes place, **Croft Castle** and **Meadow Arts** bring contemporary art exhibition *In Another Light* to its grand finale. If you haven't had chance to make it over yet, the exhibition features commissioned work by **David Ogle**, who uses light as a sculptural material in large-scale installations. **Mark Richards'** evocative work uses marble and light to transform the medieval church. A digital projection by **Rebecca Farkas** on the outer walls brings Croft's interior outside, on a grand scale: Rebecca is also making an interactive artwork on the night.



With events and activities to take part in for all ages, there really is something for everyone: the exhibition is open; artist David Ogle will be there to talk about his work; Rebecca Farkas invites visitors to add to a new temporary artwork in the grounds; join in a special lantern parade around Croft accompanied by medieval music with the **Ledbury Waytes**; warm yourself at the big bonfire; have your face painted and make your own glow drawings.

Croft Castle & Parkland, Herefordshire

Saturday 21 March, from 7-9pm. More details at:

www.meadowarts.org & www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croftcastle

City of Culture

On 12th February 2015 a vibrant workshop was held to consider what it would take for Worcester and its environs to bid for City of Culture 2021.



The workshop, which took place at **Worcester Racecourse** and was organised jointly by **Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership**, **Worcester City Council** and **Worcestershire County Council**, attracted more than 75 representatives from arts organisations, businesses, local authorities, sporting clubs and cultural and other partner organisations. The event, which was open to all stakeholders, sought to bring as many interested parties as possible together and understand:

- * **The process to make a City of Culture bid**
- * **Who would need to be involved**
- * **What a local bid could look like**
- * **Resources required, financial costs and benefits**
- * **The feasibility of a potential bid.**

Attendees heard from **Gary Woodman**, Executive Director of Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and **Duncan Sharkey**, Managing Director of Worcester City Council about the economic benefits of such a bid, the resources required and what Worcester and the surrounding areas already have to offer. **Robert Keeling**, who is Worcestershire LEP's Westminster Cabinet Office representative, provided the perspective of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the latest information on that Department's current consultation process. Until the consultation outcome is known, there could be some changes to the process including in which year the next City of Culture will be effective - currently programmed for 2021.

Keith Blundell, a consultant with extensive experience of having worked on previous bids including those successful in Liverpool and Hull, provided a real insight into what would be



required for a successful bid and why places like Chester had not been successful. It was particularly interesting to get Keith's views on what constituted a city with pride and one with confidence in terms of having the belief that they could bid and win the city of culture status. A further understanding of the resources and finances required was also gained, together with a better feel for the range of arts, cultural, sporting and other opportunities available. For example, Hull, which was awarded the status for 2017 is planning an event for every day of the year whilst anticipating significant benefits for the economy.

An engaging and vibrant workshop followed where attendees could provide their feedback, consider what could be Worcester's unique offer, how any challenges could be overcome and how their organisations could possibly be involved.

Overall it was a positive event and now there is much to consider as all feedback from the workshop is collated and considered by the three organisations to understand what the next steps should be. If a decision to bid is made, there will be a considerable amount of work that needs to be done in getting to the bidding stage and decisions over who will be involved in making it happen.

Watch this space!

Steve Wilson

THE BHG

Back by popular demand **Twisted Melon Art** will be running Street Art/Stencil workshops for juniors and seniors on the last Saturday of every month, with workshops run by International street artists **Melo**. This is a great opportunity to learn a new skill and create a piece of art for yourself or a present for a loved one. The workshop starts at 2pm for juniors (under 18s must be accompanied by an adult) 4pm for adults: £5 pp with all materials and safety equipment supplied. Please bring a picture with you, no smaller than A4.

The **BHG** Life drawing class run by **Coz** is going from strength to strength, held the first Thursday of every month in the gallery. Next class March 7th starts 7pm, £4 pp with a Female life model and a Burlesque theme to help push to boundaries of life drawing.

Did you Know? The BHG is available to hire for Exhibitions, Creative studio space, meetings and venue hire with competitive rates and bespoke packages available for Artists and creative folk. Available from 1 hr hire to 1 day & evening hire and longer, this is a perfect space to work on large scale projects for artists who do not have their own space or need more to realise large scale paintings. The venue is also great for meetings and networking of no more than 50 people with P.A hire available. Email or contact us directly for more information.



Upcoming shows at The BHG from Chilli // Dave Simpson // Above Boards Expo and SkateBoard /Outsider Art Exhibition later in the year plus some surprise exhibitions to be announced please check our websites for more details.

www.facebook.com/thebhg
contact The BHG direct 07982123339

MOUTH & MUSIC



As the election approaches, **Mouth and Music** are looking for political poetry and songs for their acoustic night on Tuesday March 10th at the **Boars Head**, Kidderminster. Anyone can sign up from 7.00pm to perform and the evening runs from 7.30 to 10.00pm. There'll be political rhyming from featured poet **Paul Francis** and wry humour from singer/songwriter **Rich Stokes**. The theme of "*Politics and Polemics*" is not obligatory so anything goes! For more info See: www.mouthandmusic.co.uk



Music Heritage Trail news

As part of a major physical revamp of Kidderminster's Town Centre, plans for a music heritage trail are emerging. Saturday the 21st sees a sold out **Frank Freemans** reunion gig at the Gainsborough Hotel kicking off a fund raising campaign to help get the project underway. **Kidderminster Arts Festival 2016** will be used as a launch event for the Trail, using performances and events to dramatize the musical history of the town.

Loz Samuels is leading on the project; she said *'I'm trying to collect as many stories and images as possible together, so we can create a living archive, this will help inform a new show which will be performed at the festival next year. If people have old posters, tickets or stories or press cuttings, please photograph them and up load them to the page. It's a very exciting project which I think will resonate with so many local people.'*

She can't do it without the help of the people who were there though so please get in touch if you have something that could be involved, have posters that you could offer for scanning, anything you think might be relevant please email her on loz.samuels@wyreforestdc.gov.uk or you can add your memories and images to a facebook page collecting history of music events in Kidderminster

www.facebook.com/KidderminstersMusicHeritageTrail

There's also a crowd funding campaign, started to attract match funding for the event

<http://www.gofundme.com/kidderminstermusic>

Well, the year's been rolling round, from February Fill-ditch to the Mad March winds, but here at the Workshop we've been travelling the world. **Lina Patel's** 'Leaves Live Long' exhibition has been warming the walls of the Café Gallery, with its colourful imagery - all the way from English gardens to Indian dancers and Hindu mythology. Not only that - she's been warming us too with her traditional dishes. Her launch here on February 13th was a feast of her art and food, and topped off by the appearance of **Giles Petit** - a singer from Provence, en route to a workshop at The Fold in Bransford the following day - who sang a wonderful raga to the timeless sound of the sitar - making the whole evening magical.



The children who attended **Worcester Theatre Makers'** half-term workshop celebrated the Chinese New Year with a day of arts, crafts and drama, which truly blossomed!! They're back in our theatre each term-time Tuesday at 4.15-5.15pm with their **Class Act** drama club for 6-12 year-olds - £4.50, but with a free taster session - phone **Beth Walsh** on 07817 009158 for more details. Look out for their Easter Holiday activities too.

Tuesdays in the theatre promise to be very expressive! A new class for pre-schoolies - 'Bambinos Dance' - led by **Mina Burden**, starts on March 10th - 'the perfect introduction to the magical world of dance'. Contact Mina on 07598 185334 or hello@bambinosdance.co.uk to book your little one in for a session of music, mime, dance and rhyme. Walking - 2.5 years 9.30 - 10.15am, and 2.5 - 4years 10.30 - 11.15am. Free taster sessions available on 10th, 17th or 24th March.

AllSorts of Performing Arts are also in action on Tuesdays after school, as well as Saturday mornings. Contact tutor **Stuart Inglis** on 07768 485533 or allsorts.pa@gmail.com for class details and booking. They will be hosting an **Open Day on Saturday 21st March**, which should be a fun day to showcase their various activities and more. Our own very popular **Kids' Art Club, Kids' Pottery Club and Teenagers' Art Club** continue to make every Saturday morning buzzingly busy too ...

A new course of **Creative Craft Projects** with **Anna Yevtukh-Squire** runs on Mondays at 10am - 12noon from

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March 2nd - 23rd (inclusive). This 4-week course costs £44 and follows the success of her **Unique Handmade Books** course in February. Likewise, tutor Toby Dickinson starts **Oil Painting for Beginners** on Tuesdays, also 10am - 12noon. Our other popular courses in painting, drawing, watercolours, life drawing and ceramics continue in their regular slots - please see our website www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk for more information.

We're keenly anticipating the return of **Melting Pot Theatre Company** with their performance of **Yasmina Reza's 'God of Carnage'**, opening at WAW on Thursday 12th, Friday 13th and Saturday 14th March before touring. Tickets on the door, or ring/text 07903 339669 to reserve. £8/£5 concessions. The show starts at 7.30pm, with no interval.

Our talented residents **Vamos Theatre Company** are now touring 'Nursing Lives' nationally (including Jersey!) until early June, when we look forward to their return and final dates at the Swan Theatre - too big for us now...!

On the music front, we're looking forward to the return of **Lazy Sunday** - afternoons in the courtyard - on April 12th, but before then we have **Lesley Roley, Alex Rainsford** and **Charlie Bath** - great singers all - entertaining us in the theatre on the evening of Wednesday April 1st. Don't be a fool - come on down!

Our next exhibition in the **Café Gallery** will be by the Wednesday/Thursday morning Painting and Drawing Group - always good to see work produced by WAW's own students - and will run from Tuesday March 2nd to Saturday 28th March. **The Launch Party** will be on Friday 6th March, 6-9pm in Café Bliss, and you're all invited. Always a lovely evening of food, wine and colour - which is where we came in...

Preview - Bleak House

Swan Theatre | Thur 12th Mar

Join The **Pantaloons Theatre Company** for a fog-filled adventure in Victorian London.

"Fog everywhere. Fog up the river where it flows among green aits and meadows; fog down the river, where it rolls defiled among the tiers of shipping, and the waterside pollutions of a great (and dirty) city..."

When a dead body is discovered in Mr Krook's Rag-and-Bone shop, a web of mysteries starts to untangle, with far-reaching consequences. Hilarious, tragic and romantic by turns, Dickens' darkly comic masterpiece is retold by The Pantaloons in their own inimitable style.



The Pantaloons Theatre Company draw from a wide variety of popular theatre traditions, from Commedia dell'arte and pantomime to stand-up comedy and silent movies, to bring a vital sense of "play" back to classical performance.

"Part alternative rock band, part thespian, part performance art, the result is wholly charming." The Times

An Audience Without Jake Thackray Huntingdon Hall | Friday 27th March

A personal fave, **Jake Thackeray** was a multi-talented man, almost impossible to pigeonhole and a real one-off. Singer-songwriter, poet and journalist, Jake was a true craftsman of the English language and a storyteller, writing songs that broke all the rules and yet somehow always worked beautifully.

Jake's songs are exquisitely funny, satirical, incisive, irreverent, witty and gloriously un-PC – and often all of these at the same time. The legacy of Jake's scores of songs lives on, and now thanks to **John 'Fake Thackray' Watterson**, the very essence of Jake can be experienced live once again.

On learning of Jake's passing in 2002, Watterson – an avid fan since first seeing and meeting Jake back in 1975 – decided that the songs were too good not to be kept alive, so he set about learning more of them. After what Watterson describes as a thirty year 'accidental' career in the laundry industry – it was time for his mid-life crisis. He told his wife that he wanted to give up the day job and sing Jake's songs, she said OK, and that's exactly what he did.

John Watterson has since performed the songs of Jake Thackray at festivals, concerts, clubs, and even – most specially – to members of Jake's family. Having recently supported Fairport Convention on a six-week nationwide tour, John achieved multiple four-star reviews when he premiered this latest show, *An Evening Without Jake Thackray*, at the 2013 Edinburgh Festival. John has received accolades from many of Jake's friends and contemporaries, including Ralph McTell, Richard Digance, Mike Harding and Sir Richard Stilgoe.

A celebration of one of the finest songwriters of the 20th Century.

Michael McGoldrick John McCusker & John Doyle Huntingdon Hall | Tuesday 10th March

Our collective whistles are whetted at Slap Mag as once more **Michael McGoldrick**, **John McCusker** and **John Doyle**, three members of the BBC acclaimed *Transatlantic Sessions*, play Huntingdon Hall this March.

Master of flutes, whistles and Uilleann pipes, **McGoldrick** has been a member of several influential bands, such as Fluke!, Lunasa and Capercaillie, but has now led his own band since 2011. He has also toured extensively and recorded with Mark Knopfler, both with and without now cohort **John McCusker**.

John McCusker's unique fiddle playing has earned him a worldwide reputation as one of the most gifted and versatile musicians of any genre. A multi-instrumentalist, producer and composer, McCusker has worked with artists as diverse as Paul Weller, Patti Smith, Teenage Fanclub and Billy Connolly and shared a stage with many other top flight artists.

John Doyle completes this special line up and his gifts as guitarist, songwriter and vocalist have played an essential role in the on-going renaissance of Irish traditional music. As part of critically acclaimed group, Solas, he has received three NAIRD awards and a Grammy nomination. John's most recent solo recording, *'Shadow and Light'* amply displays his significant talents as singer/songwriter and unsurprisingly he is impossibly in demand both in the studio and on the road.

As these three much sought after masters of their trade are so busy, this really is a rare chance to see them share a stage together.



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Stillbust, Constructor Salvatore Leone, The Run Up Death Or Glory Records, Redditch | Sunday 8th Feb

There's about four shows a week at this place – **Death Or Glory Records**. It's by NEW college. Round the back of the church. You really should go. It's easy when you know how. And this was something loud, vigorous and frantic on a Sunday night. And that is not something you often get. Past a certain age, anyway.

Opens **The Run Up** were a last minute addition to the bill, having had a show pulled at short notice up in Brum. I'm told they were punk as, and pretty decent. I arrived late sadly and missed them. I could pretend I saw them and make up some epithets based on their Bandcamp stuff and hearsay. But that would be lazy Boris Johnson style journalism. And lack integrity. And I would never do that.

I did see most of the next band though: **Salvatore Leone** from Bromsgrove. Who were full of slamming and straight metalcore self-belief. Smack bang in the middle of *Bring Me The Horizon* territory, this pulled no musical punches – and was foot-up on monitor raging metal assault throughout. It's a congested market all that, but this was as tight as you'll see and was delivered with undeniable intent. Crack on, lads.

Constructor were a Southern Lord style, ever so slightly swampy hardcore rock-noise offering from South Wales – all beads, physical intensity and muscular time changes. Baby Godzilla meets Mastodon. In both sound and performance. All five of these boys were clearly going right shit-nuts off to their music and having a grand old time. It got a little confused. Somewhere in there, there was even a human pyramid – the



Constructor

modern kind with the boys all on their hands and knees that you see at the niche hardcore festivals. And generally it this was one happy mass of speed-sludge fun.

Headliners **Stillbust** are grafters. They tour like eejits and exemplify the DIY ethos that makes these kind of shows hard not to love. And despite the deliberately cockeyed intelligence peeking out cheekily from their mathy hardcore, they clearly do not give much of a fuck about their own personal safety - or what you think. As with the previous lot, the separation between the punters and the boys with the instruments was largely irrelevant. The sweaty little creature stage-front doing most of the vocals was the main instigator: rearranging the furniture and generally clambering about with a childlike giddy abandon. The drum kit ended up being picked up and rearranged somewhere at the back. There was a lot of shouting. People got carried about. And somehow, the five thirty am start the next morning didn't seem quite such a bind.

Which, when you think about it, is the whole point of going to shows like this in the first place.

Words: Veronica Bloodsausage

Photography: Gavin Smith / Front Row Productions

Small is beautiful...

Yes I've been banging on for ages that it isn't the lack of venues or great bands in our fair region - but the last few months have seen an amazing explosion of those vital links that bring both together - and it's so heartwarming to see new promoters like **Surprise Attacks, Faithful City, Embrace The Chaos, Hereford Live and Livewire** (among quite a few others) step up to the mic and successfully put on great new events even at what's a relatively quiet time of year gig-wise!! Please be assured guys that if I regularly wore a hat I'd be doffing it to you - great work!!

Once again though plenty of very sad stories over the last couple of months about wannabee musos suckered into entering the various 'talent' competitions and finding themselves dumped out after reaching the 'regional semifinal' or whatever - but always just one step away from the 'national' heat where a record deal and/or industry interest is promised but never somehow materialises. The surest way of ending these rip-off events is treat them with the contempt they deserve - please don't go there...

Now I expect you're all planning your summer festival schedule and I've already got plenty pencilled in myself despite there seeming to be quite a few 'clashes' - but guess I'll do my best to get to as many as possible until that longed-for time-travel solution appears! As in previous years there's a bunch of new events lined up for the summer over our region that promise a load of big-name acts at new and

untested venues but who somehow fail to deliver at the last minute - leaving many punters out of pocket - we call them 'failed-festivals' and there's been far too many in recent years for my liking...

But one of the first festies I'm hoping to once again to pop along to is the bluesy **Linton Festival** near Ross-on-Wye - this event sprang up when a bunch of locals realised that it was easier to organise a mini-fest in the capacious back garden of their local pub rather than travel a couple of hundred miles to a similar event on the South Coast - they've ever since then kept it small but perfectly formed, attracting top quality acts and have been sold out for the last ten years and more!!

This isn't anything new though - in my view the best festivals have been those which started out small but with a great concept - just think of **Glasto, Big Chill** and yes even **Woodstock** - and there's a few in our own fair region which I reckon still have that original and maybe hippyish mindset when they started out - but have grown massively in recent years - and have to say these are very much the ones I prefer to go along to - guess you can also think of a few that fall into that category and hope to see you at them in a few month's time!!

On a personal note - it's a pleasure to report that the show's co-founder **Dan Johnson** - now BBC Sport England online editor and BBC H&W football commentator - has joined the University Of Worcester's journalism lecturing team - and he's still a keen follower of the great Malvern music scene and a regular at the many gigs and open mics each week across the Hills - respect!!
Andy O'Hare
(comment/message me at so-sue-me@live.co.uk)

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Matt Woosey

Prince of Wales, Ledbury | Sunday 8th Feb

We have been very fortunate over the months to have seen a stream of top quality blues performers at this cracking little venue tucked away in Ledbury: this day saw the return of highly acclaimed local man **Matt Woosey**.

Confessing to a bit of a hangover from a party with old Uni pals, Matt struck a chord with *'Hook Line And Sinker'*: a hard hitting song featured on both a recent EP and the subsequent album *'Wildest Dreams'*. Valley floors and soaring heights charted the Woo powered *'Give Me All Your Love'*, before revisiting an old favourite to *'Walk Away These Blues'*. It's only late afternoon and Matt has the appearance of a Jeff Bridges playing Rooster Cockburn - blues with true grit! There is no Dave Small lending his percussive skills here today, so the beat is provided by the heel of Matt's hand slapping into the hollow body, the thin skin around the sound hole is visibly hollowed and in danger of wearing through. The Taylor acoustic has been faithfully at his side for near ten years, but I'm not sure it will stand ten more of being played with such venom.

A lighter note as he searches for his *'Elsie May'* precedes a song taken from his inspirational roots, Huddy Ledbetter and later Rory Gallagher, *'Out On The Western Plain'*; a range riding lament to a bunch of cowboys. Take a look at video footage of Rory and you will see where Matt takes his guitar playing style from, but I firmly believe (no doubt controversially) that Matt brings more gravitas to his vocals. The cowboy song has drifted out to some Led Zep licks and now the night before has been truly shaken off as it's time to add in a bit of reverb. *'Wildest Dreams'*: it signposts the expansive style of music

Matt is now producing, beautifully written and presented this afternoon. A chrome slide is conjured up for an ever recurring blues dilemma *'Woke Up This Morning'*, maybe to a *'Cruel Disposition'*. This song is rightly reprised at most of Matt's gigs, appealing for divine intervention, it also happens to be a hard hitting song where strings are attacked with malice aforethought, as the lyrics are spat out. Then time for a more jovial drinkers' song to close the first set: *'Too Much Alcohol'* is a Sonny Boy Williamson song reprised by many over the years included dear long departed Rory - it's a fun bit of blues to close the first set and find the bar!

'Nowhere Is Home To Me' restarts the gig and we are now listening to songs from *'Wildest Dreams'* - the deliciously dark, touching on erotic *'Don't You Tell Nobody'* is here, including the missing verse - a murderous threat - followed quickly by the superb *'I've Seen The Bottom'*, perhaps an ode to many dedicated performers on the road trying to earn a living. The guitar does *'Exactly As It Pleases'* as Matt sheds a string, how did it get this far into the set? A couple of old favourites to finish on: nothing more needs to be said about Willie Dixon's *'Lil' Red Rooster'* and then Matt's storming finale *'Black Smoke Rising'*. An exceptional evening spent in the company of an exceptional talent and a highly appreciative audience, all cosily wrapped in the confines of The Prince Wales.

Graham Munn



The Lamb & Flag

The Tything, Worcester

Sunday 1st March, Folk Session
Remembering Ollie Roche 12.30-3.00

Sunday 1st March RBS Six Nations
Ireland v England 3pm

Monday 9th March Folk Session 9pm

Tuesday 17th March St Patricks Day Folk session 8.30pm

Monday 23rd March Folk Session 9pm

Jones Annual Minifest: Margies 50th

Friday 27th March 8.30 Skewwhiff

Saturday 28th March 4.30 Poor Boys of Worcester

Saturday 28th March 8.30 Bitterroots



Stockists of





Martin Barre

Artrix, Bromsgrove | Fri 30th January

Martin Barre has been Jethro Tull's Guitarist since 1969 when he first appeared on the album 'Stand Up'. His signature solo on the 1971 album 'Aqualung' was voted by the readers of Guitar Player Magazine as one of the top Guitar Solos of all time. So there's a whiff of The Man's pedigree !

On this Tour he is joined by **Dan Crisp** (Vocals, Guitar, Bouzouki), **Alan Thompson** (Bass, Slide Guitar) and **George Lindsay** (Drums).

The evening, predictably, is a back catalogue of Jethro Tull songs with a few Blues numbers thrown in. The first two numbers being 'Watch your Step' and 'Steal your Heart Away' - both songs by the late Blues guitarist Bobby Parker, the latter, **Martin Barre** tells us, is a version inspired by Joe Bonnamassa, a particular Guitar Hero of his he later tells us. Next up a couple of Tull classics: 'Minstrel in the Gallery' and 'To Cry You a Song'. It's interesting to hear these sung by someone other than Ian Anderson and Dan Crisp has a voice that reminds me of Paul Rogers. Another Tull number follows, the instrumental 'Misere', written by Barre himself and then it's the band's take on 'Eleanor Rigby' - great version too. Back to the Tull catalogue and a blistering take on 'Thick as a Brick' with Barre playing his favourite excerpts. A Dan Crisp song next called 'Love is Why You Came Here' then more Tull to see us to the break, namely 'Sweet Dream' and 'Song for Jeffrey'. For a man of 68 years old Martin Barre jumps, pogoes and dances about like someone half his age, though he was probably welcome of the break after all that wandering around.

'Wond'ring Aloud' kicks off the second set with just Barre and Crisp duelling Guitars before the rest of the Band join them for a cover of a Porcupine Tree song called 'Blackest Eyes'. Then a bit of a break from Tull as we are treated to some Blues standards; Howlin' Wolf's 'Smokestack Lightning', Robert Johnson's 'Crossroads', with an interesting mandolin start and then the traditional 'Rock Me Baby' - I believe B.B King did a lot to popularise this song and Martin informed us that "As no one is sure who wrote the original, it seemed fair to put my own angle on it. Hopefully, it retains the simplicity that makes it so special" - it did. With the evening drawing to a close, it's back to Jethro Tull classics with 'The Teacher' played pretty much as the original version, then a rocked up version of 'Fatman' followed by 'New Day Yesterday', played at a slower tempo to give it a more 'dirty blues' feel. This takes us to the end of the show bar(re?!) a couple more for the encore. Martin announces "something different" as the band break into 'Still Loving you Tonight' and then a great version of 'Locomotive Breath' to finish off.

A great show with an appreciative crowd as **Martin Barre** shows us that you are never too old to Rock 'n' Roll. He has taken an imaginative approach to his own past by readdressing many of his favourite, often more obscure nuggets from Jethro Tull's vast cache.

words by Stewart T Mock

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LOOKING FORWARD

Lechlade Festival 22nd - 24th May

Furthering Slap Mag's endeavours to keep you up to date with all the latest news for all the upcoming festivals in our region this year, we are pleased to announce the latest additions to **Lechlade Festival** which takes place over the weekend of 22nd - 24th May.

Jennie Rainsford, **Lechlade Festival** director informs us that the exciting line-up additions are **Louise Latham**, **Silver Story**, **Feral Ghost** and **Twister**. She is also pleased to announce that **Dr & The Medics** will be returning as Saturday's headline act after last year's show-stopping performance. Keeping her best and biggest card till last, Jennie then reveals that the legendary **Status Quo** will be appearing as the headline act on Sunday, which as she says is an incredible coup for this homegrown festival.

Also returning to Lechlade this year are fest faves such as **Josephine and The Artisans**, **Whole Lotta Led**, **Nina Baker** and the indomitable **Frankenstein's Lobster**.



Now in its 5th year Lechlade continually strives via Jennie and her festival team, to maintain the quality not just of the marvellous music, but by bringing the crowds carefully selected food and drink including Hogan's Cider, Real Ales, locally-sourced sausages, veg options, real ice cream, Indian and Mexican street food.

Lechlade Festival really does offer something for everyone in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere and with Adult tickets at just £57 for the whole weekend, concessionary rates on offer and Children 16 & Under getting in free, Lechlade is also a wallet friendly festival.

Bands are being added to the line-up all the time, so head over to their website at www.lechlade.co.uk for all the latest news and ticket purchasing.

Wychwood Festival 29th - 31st May

Info is coming in thick and fast from wonderful Wychwood as their line-up grows both in number and stature.

Now in its 11th year **Wychwood**, which is held on Cheltenham racecourse from 29th - 31st May, has been nominated in the **Best Family Festival** category at the UK Festival Awards, every year since its inception.

With over 100 bands on 4 stages, not to mention the classy comedy plus the Children's and Real Ale Festivals (not combined!), fabulous food and idyllic camping facilities, Wychwood has firmly established itself in the pantheon of Great British festivals.

16 SLAP MARCH

Amongst the myriad of acts announced so far are:- **Ladysmith Black Mambazo**, **The Proclaimers**, **UB40**, **Wonderstuff Acoustic**, **Dreadzone**, **Ghostpoet**, **Craig Charles**, **Andy Kershaw**, **Lucy Rose**, **Rusty Shackle**, **Fickle Friends**, **Monsieur Doumani**, **Folk On** and **Electric Swing Circus**.

Even TV luminaries **Dick and Dom** will be gracing the Main Stage on Saturday with their patented silliness. Something for y'all then!

We at Slap will be reporting before, during and after the proceedings, but for all your Wychwood needs please go to www.wychwoodfestival.com



Lunar Festival 5th May - 7th June

Last year was the inaugural **Lunar Festival** and it proved to be a most welcome and perhaps surprisingly fresh addition to what has become a somewhat congested Festival calendar.

At once eclectic, eccentric and inspirational Lunar is brought to you by the same team behind the consistently quality **Moseley Folk** and **Mostly Jazz, Funk and Soul Festivals**.

Nestled in the beautiful countryside of Tamworth-In-Arden - home of **Nick Drake** - on the Umberslade Estate, this year's stellar line-up looks to even outdo 2014's successes and looks right up Slap Mag's strasse!

Here we go...take a deep breath -: **Tinariwen**, **Public Service Broadcasting**, **Bootleg Beatles**, **Sun Ra Arkestra**, **The Fall**, **The Amazing Snakeheads**, **Julian Cope**, **BBC Radiophonic Workshop**, **Goblin**, **The Pretty Things**, **Nick Drake's Record Player**, **Robyn Hitchcock** and **Mike Heron** with **Trembling Bells**, plus as they say, many, many others!

Lunar festival is truly musically diverse with something for all the family, including arts, crafts, activities, games and delicious artisan food and drink from across the region, plus a range of camping and accommodation options.



TO THE SUMMER...?



As part of our lead-up to Lunar, the April issue of Slap Mag will feature a Q&A with one of the festival's headliners, **Public Service Broadcasting**, including an in-depth look at their new long playing meisterwork *'The Race For Space.'*

We will also bring you the latest up-to-date info on any exciting new Lunar festival plans: this really is one to watch!

For much more information including ticketing and accommodation please visit www.lunarfestival.co.uk

Nozstock 30th July - 1st Aug

Starting with just fifty friends in a field in the mid-90's, **Nozstock** is now in it's 17th year and has evolved into being one of the most vibrant and important boutique festivals in the three counties and beyond.

Independent and just a little bit left-of-centre, Nozstock brims with diversity, creativity and excitement. This year father and daughter team of **Noz** and **Ella** have landed a major musical coup in the form of rap legends **Wu Tang Clan** who will doubtless take Nozstock to a different level this July.

Another legendary headlining act due to appear is **Martha Reeves and The Vandellas** who are true Motown sensations of the highest order and Nozstock are proud to be able to present them.

Of course this resolutely eclectic festival has some deep roots in drum and bass and so across the weekend there will be trail-blazing music in genres such as hip-hop, grime, dubstep, old skull rave, electro swing, techno, glibtch hop, ghetto funk, jungle and many more.



Nozstock also continues to support local and emerging artists and so they have appearing the likes of **Stiff Joints** and **Lisbee Stainton** together with **Hollie Cook**, **Beans on Toast**, **Molotov Jukebox**, **Mr B The Gentleman Rhymer**, **Beardyman**, **London Elektriccity**, with loads more both announced and to be announced!

Nozstock: The Hidden Valley has nine stages, many nooks and crannies, all set around a ramshackle Tudor farmhouse. So if you are a veteran or a virgin this festival welcomes you with an incredible array of vital, euphoric and uplifting happenings.

Truly a festival for all, Nozstock takes place across the weekend 24th - 26th July at Rowden Paddocks in Bromyard, Herefordshire.

Again new acts and events are being announced almost constantly so please visit their website www.nozstock.com for up to the minute information and ticket information.

Lakefest 7th - 9th Aug

Back bigger and better than ever before, popular Tewksbury based **Lakefest** returns for its fourth consecutive year.

To tempt us with their wares, **Lee Martin** the festival organiser has sent us a 'Starter For Ten' teaser mail, so without further ado here is the list of the top ten so-far confirmed acts:

Indie-Pop four piece **The Magic Numbers** are somewhat of a coup, as indeed are **The Cheeky Girls** and Prof Brian Cox's old band, 90's dance ledges **D:Ream**. Adding to this nostalgic mix are **Billy Bragg** (boy do we need him now!), **Dreadzone**, **Ferocious Dog**, **Hayseed Dixie**, **Lloyd Yates**, **Nizlopi** and **The Selecter**.



A mighty list already I'm sure you'll agree and there'll be three more headline acts revealed for this year's fest in April. Before that there'll be additions galore to the line-up which Slap Mag will keep you informed about, but as always head over to www.lakefest.co.uk for up to the minute info.

This resolutely family friendly festival, which won **The Families Choice Award** in 2014, takes place from Fri 7th to Sunday 9th August and is held at Croft Farm Waterpark near Tewksbury in glorious Gloucestershire.

Be sure to book early to avoid disappointment as tickets for this fabulous festival sell quickly.

Images: Status Quo, UB40, The Fall, Public Service Broadcasting, Mr B The Gentleman, The Magic Numbers

Album Review | Black Country Boy Doc Bowling & His Blues Professors

An unusual title for an album, given that the band is based around the London area, but the good Doc was raised on the edge of **The Black Country**. This is very much a blues album for today, with plenty of political satire and references to our modern maladies. On that basis alone, it is The Blues! Dark humour is also present, as befits the subject matter.

First, *'Black Country Boy'* takes a train ride, the rhythm of the tracks evident as the Black Country towns and scenery slip by. Soot belches out, covering all: it's a bit of well crafted fun, rooted in our industrial past.

'The False Prophet Blues', casts a much darker cloud over man's intolerance, a fast buck and consumerism at all cost. Narrated by a gruff-voiced Doc to a riff that gallops along nicely, with **Lawrence Davies** on harmonica and **Donnie Burke's** honeyed guitar making their presence felt. *'Goodbye Mary Jane'* brings a country & western song that canters along, complete with chorus and the distinctive presence of **Mademoiselle Chat Noir's** violin: it recalls love of a femme fatale and lightens the mood. Even deeper into *'cowboy'* territory, the violin more prominent, for a surgical *'Look Into My Heart'*, based on an old Harry Jackson song. Then time to move back firmly into blues territory with a reflection on the dangers of the road: *'Pedestrian Crossroads Blues'* turns going



down to the crossroads into a whole new perspective. Of course it ends in death, as befits the blues, this time the poor victim is flattened by a truck! The car is king, as we listen to the Black Cat's violin layered over Donnie's slide. Onto another updated blues subject, *'Murder Suicide Blues'*; a tale of death for love, country blues with the delightful fiddle rightfully taking the lead. The subject may be dark but the song is fine, with the Doc adding the gritty lyrics.

We up the pace with a more traditional blues riff, lovely slide and dirty guitar chords: greed rules - beware - it's the *'Biodiesel Blues'*. The crop to fuel our lifestyle instead of feeding the people: some serious social comment, befitting some serious blues chords. Superb!

'Church Going Blues', is the gospel according to Muddy Waters, with lyrics inspired by this quote from the great man, *"Phew you gotta go to church to get the particular things in your soul you know"*. This is a great, hard hitting sermon.

I'm trying to avoid conveying this album track by track, but it's not easy though, with the combination of the subject matter being a serious reflection on our collective morals and way of life today, conveyed in a very enjoyable and stylish way. More slide follows and a driving rhythm from Simon Minney on bass and Graham Chapman on drums, underscoring *'Wannabe Outlaw Blues'*. Then finally and with lyrics encompassing Daniel Craig, *'Layer Cake'*, Inland Revenue, and bank robbery, we come to the storming closer *'Hi Heel Sneakers'*, with some lyrics 'stolen' from Dylan the whole tune is excellent.

Like cheating the taxman, this CD is a steal: from a band that entertains whilst making observations on the world's plight, this is the return of the protest song. I'm very pleased to have a copy in my hands and recommend you check it out. <http://bluesprofessors.com> - Graham Munn



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Doc Bowling & His Blues Professors Sunjay & Final Measure St Georges Hall, Bewdley



Bewdley, quaint but hardly renowned as a musical mecca, sure a few pubs put on regular music nights, but it's not high on the list of places to play. All that could be about to change, though if the years first music at the hall gig is anything to judge by, a packed out venue of music fans of all ages just waiting to be entertained.

The hall itself ticked all the right boxes, decent stage, lighting and sound, well organised and just about the right size to have a dance and still feel intimate for those who wanted to remain seated.

By the time local band, **Final Measure** took to the stage the hall was already full of expectant music lovers and the young four-piece were not to disappoint. The four piece (expanded to six with guest singer and saxophonist) paid tribute to 60's British Blues with a set littered with John Mayall covers and for a band of such tender years, it was remarkable how well they paid homage. As a four-piece the band performed muscular instrumentals before singer, Roxxi joined for a sterling rendition of *Feeling Good* (Nina Simone), the rest of the band's set was lapped up gleefully by the assembled masses and they left to rapturous applause.

Tonight's blues performance was all about showcasing the various variations of the blues and the evenings second performer, **Sunjay** did just that, armed with just an acoustic guitar for company, his set moved from acoustic blues to folk and everything inbetween. Over the past year or so the likes of Radio Two (Sunjay was nominated for the young folk musician of the year award) and R2 Magazine have been clambering to sing Sunjay's praises and with the likes of the stunning bluesy set opener, *I Love You Like A Man* it easy to see why this young musician is held in such high regard. During Sunjay's set he regaled us with tall tales and a set of stripped down perfection, whether performing originals such as *London Road* or impassioned covers such as the brilliant encore rendition of Bo Diddley's *Who Do You Love?*. If you have even a passing interest in roots, folk or blues, I highly recommend catching Sunjay somewhere down the road, you won't be disappointed.

Tonight **Doc Bowling & His Blues Professors** were launching their new album *Black Country Boy* (reviewed elsewhere) and after watching the band I can only go to imagine how many of the audience left with the disc in their grubby mitts. The ever expandable band played their socks off and the audience soaked up the group's infectious energy and responded in kind. From the opening number *Let The Good Times Roll*, the gravelly voiced Doc grabbed the crowd in the palm of his hand, half way through the first number and the first dancers hit the floor, by the time the band ran through *Shake Your Money Maker* (Elmore James) the floor became a mass of jutting bodies.

As Doc Bowling & The Blues Professors continued their set they moved from hard hitting blues complete with wailing harmonica to the fiddle led country blues of *Look Into My Heart*, from gravelly holler to heartfelt croon the versatile band effortlessly moved through the gears. A mesmeric run through blues standard *St James Infirmary Blues* saw violin, harmonica, saxophone and guitar flurries lifting the often performed blues staple to a new level, whilst *Way Down In A Hole* (Tom Waits theme music to *The Wire*) suited the good Doc's vocals down to the ground.

The band played into the night and still people shook and whooped in delight, until the very last chord. Bewdley had never witnessed anything like this before.

As an opening night of what promises to be a monthly regular music night at St George's Hall, the organisers have set their standards at an incredibly high standard; it'll be fun to see where they go from here.

www.bluesprofessors.com

Will Munn

Son of a Lumberjack | All That I Have Seen

CD REVIEW

Worcestershire based, three-piece **Son Of A Lumberjack** are something of a new name to me, but having listened and devoured their debut single, *All That I Have Seen*, (produced by Rhys Downing) I sure hope to hear a great deal more in the near future.

The track opens with a flurry of drums and cymbals, before a melodic, yet punchy riff cuts through the furious bombardment, whilst a bass growls somewhere in the background. The vocals drop and



oddly bring to mind those of Eddie Vedder only with perhaps a little more anguish thrown in for good measure, whilst the band threaten with an orgy of serrated riffs and bombastic beats, as the track finishes in much the same way it began, with a further frantic drum assault.

As introductions serve, *All That I Have Seen*, is a short, memorable burst of energetic taunt rock that leaves you exhilarated and baying for more.

www.facebook.com/sonofalumberjack

Will Munn

PREVIEW

Faithful City Shows Presents: River Jumpers, Holy, Guerilla Monsoon, Gooche Drummonds, Worcester | Wed 18th March

A Wednesday night in **Drummonds** was the venue for Lee Jackson and his new venture **Faithful City Shows**. The doors opened and the crowds flooded in.

First on stage and making their debut was the three piece indie college band **Gooche**. A little nervy at first in front of a full house, they gave a brave performance of their own original songs. As they grew in confidence they showed enough promise for people to take note and mark them down as ones to watch for in the near future.



Next on stage came **Guerilla Monsoon**. Four Midlanders with punk at heart. It's great to see a band at the top of their game enjoying performing so much. Raw energy and contagious smiles flowed from their front-man, as the whole band played their fast and furious set with impeccable timing and gusto. Pure brilliance.

Third up was the enigmatic **Holy**. Worcester's own proto-punk indie rockers. A provocative performance with subversive undertones. Guitar interlaced with keyboards, backing up the deliberate emotionally delivered lyrics. **Holy** have a style all of their own.

Last but not least came the **River Jumpers**. These Brighton based punks were making their first visit to Worcester as part of their latest UK tour. Up beat and melodic songs with lyrics delivered on the bounce encouraged many to join the dance. Their catchy choruses clearly drew in and caught the empathy of the crowd. Great fun. If you didn't like this band. You could always 'blame the postman'.

Show number one has to be put down as a great success. So what next. **Fights and Fires, Not Scientists, Dee Cracks** and **Transmissions** have all been signed up for show number two. Can't wait.

Words & Pics Duncan Graves



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Faithful City Shows Presents: Fights And Fires, Not Scientists Dee Cracks, Transmissions Drummonds, Worcester | Sun 22nd March

Fights And Fires are heading back to Worcester after a weekend on the continent, and this time, they're bringing a bunch of European friends with them.



Fights And Fires

The four guys from Worcester play a brand of melodic rock and roll punk, with a dose of hardcore for good measure. Since forming in 2008, Fights And Fires have toured relentlessly all over mainland Europe and the UK. Now, with an



Not Scientists

extensive back catalogue of material, include two full lengths, an EP and now a new Split release under their belt, the quartet are returning to Worcester for a rare hometown show.

Joining them will be **Not Scientists** from France and **Dee Cracks** from Austria. Not Scientists, from Lyon France are one of the most exciting new bands from the mainland, formed when members of two of France's biggest punk rock bands came together. Think The Clash meets The Police with a good dose of snotty punk rock attitude, and you're almost there.

Dee Cracks are straight up, old school pop punk that will remind you of your youth. Old Green Day meets The Ramones. Good times, guaranteed.

Opening the show are **Transmissions**. The local post-hardcore mob are one of the most inventive and exciting bands to come from the City in quite some time.

7pm doors £3 advance £5 door. For More Info, Tickets and everything else: www.facebook.com/faithfulcityshows twitter.com/cityshowsworc

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Ian Luther

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich | Fri 20th Feb

From the poster image, I wasn't sure if we needed a landing pad for Ian, but then decided it was probably just the jacket that was 'out there'! Ian started the evening with an own-penned, gospellised blues song 'The Lord Have Mercy'. Shame this is not recorded yet, as it's actually rather good and



performed with a writer's passion by Ian on his acoustic guitar. Ian sits behind the huge marching drum, which booms as the foot pedal thumps home, his left foot adds a bit of infill with a fixed tambourine, punched by a second pedal. A distinct few steps towards a stairway to heaven, before being taken down a 'Lonely Road', with some involving Gallic guitar, led Ian to stumble into some Peter Green - 'Oh Well' - such things happen. This set was shaping to be an interesting mix of musical styles, as we get a bit of folk/pop and 'Sail Away' on a raft of lyrics built by Ian.

Another shift of direction, much to the obvious enjoyment of the gathering (did I see someone dancing in the confined bar?) as audience participation as encouraged in order to find the 'Hotel California'. Ian infills with Django Reinhardt influenced guitar and then slips into some Hendrix with 'Voodoo Child'. Phew!

You may have gathered by now that, above all else, Ian Luther is an entertainer with plenty of anecdotes, flowing banter and some impressive guitar play, whilst the rhythm keeps on going with that old drum.

A break before the assembled throng join in with, 'Black Betty' and then Bam A Lamming gives way to a 99 cone, as Ian takes the roll of 'Ice Cream Man'. An Albert Lee inspired, 'Country Boy' follows; Ian's own music is as diverse as the popular filling that he has layered, between slices from his own bakery. He builds a loop to spread on Duelling Banjo's' Deliverance from 'The Devil In Georgia': this is all great fun and there were plenty of smiles around. The riff's built up in a continuous stream as Ian sings operatically, arms wide open, he's now a 'Freebird' and flying by wire. Time is upon us and so with a little encouragement, pub regular Malcolm Myatt produces his violin and plays a light classic, as Ian jams along underneath adding depth with his guitar. Ian takes lead for the finale, Bill Withers 'Ain't No Sunshine' and this prove to be a lovely end to an enjoyable night's entertainment at **The Gardeners Arms**.

Ian Luther provided us with a quality mix of his own songs, varied in themselves, played with plenty of Gallic flare plus some rock classics. And so plenty of opportunity for those present to join in with the fun at this ever excellent Droitwich venue which is well worth your support.

Graham Munn

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Featured Artist Abel Gray

According to a cabal of wonks and statisticians, Redditch, home of Harry Styles, John Bonham, Nigel Clark, Kevin Turvey and needles, and a brutalist town planning experiment gone surreally wrong, is the least musical area of the UK. It's true. The maths says so.

Clearly, though, this is the same species of maths that proves beyond doubt that you can build a stable national economy entirely on banks lending money to each other and fooling poor people into buying houses. Because if you scratch a millimetre or two beneath the surface there is a seam of original local musical talent in that seemingly archetypal new town that you would do well to get to know better. **Barefoot in Baltimore; Stonepit Lane; Layers; Byron Hare; Electric / Sugar Mama; The Hungry Ghosts; Arkks;** and the grainy, multi-media lyricism of **Abel Gray**.



With a fresh take on nineties trip-hop atmospherics, wrapped around the layered modern wordplay of *Ghost Poet*, Abel Gray's self-released EP *Outsider on the Inside* is an underground gem. A solo project played live with a full band - and a serious line in illustration and graphic art - we caught up with **Abel Gray** (real name Sam LeDoyen) to talk influences, fractals and working cross platform.

Abel Gray. Hello. For those that aren't aware of you, can you tell us who you are and what you do?

Hey, I'm Abel and I'm a musician. For brevity's sake I usually describe myself as a Rapper/Songwriter. Basically, I make songs, most of which have some kind of rap verse in there somewhere. I saw the term 'alternative Hip-Hop' somewhere which I guess wouldn't be a bad description. I can't say worry much about where I am in the infinite fractal of sub-subgenres, but it's basically hip-hop with various other infusions.

Speaking of the great fractal of genres... who are your influences?

There are a billion, but big influences recently (musically and philosophically) have been - Childish Gambino, St. Vincent,



J.Cole, Bombay Bicycle Club, Kendrick Lamar. And more long term - Kanye, Brand New, Gorillaz, Outkast to name a few.

And who do you listen to yourself? Is there anyone that deserves more recognition that you want to give a shout to?

Recently I've been listening to a lot of Death Cab for Cutie and Drake (as well as all the above), and as for shouts - Saba, Mick Jenkins, Hurt Everybody. These are all Chicago artists who are on the come-up that I love.

Are there many more out there doing stuff similar to you?

Depends what you think of as similar I suppose. Everyone I know makes guitar based music, so it's not like I'm from some kind of underground circle of rappers who all sound like me. Of course every creative likes to think of themselves as completely unique but I'm sure there are comparable artists around.



You do all your own artwork and are an illustrator in your own right - can you tell us a bit more about that?

That's right, yeah. I graduated from uni as an Illustrator last year. Anyone interested can find my work at samledoyen.co.uk

There appears to be a lot of Studio Ghibli manga and high-end US graphic novel fare going on in your artwork, sometimes clean and airy - sometimes dark and hallucinatory. Where does this come from, and where do you want to take it?

It comes from exactly that - Miyazaki and graphic novels. As for where I want to take it - I'm trying to get into freelance work, but I'm also working on a graphic novel and writing a webcomic at the moment. My illustration will, I think, always be intertwined with my music too. I have a bunch of ideas/plans for tie-ins and cross-platform projects.

You have a definitely radio-friendly sound (Andrew Marston is a fan) and have had some substantial BBC



airplay recently. Labels may take an interest. There are those that think you can make a better return from music by doing it entirely yourself and cutting the commercial man out of it entirely. What do you think?

I don't really have any kind of personal perspective on this yet, but I do know that a lot of my favourite artists coming up now are doing so without a label. It definitely seems like we're at a point where a lot of what they used to offer can now be achieved without them.

And where do you want to take your music next?

Anywhere I can, pretty much. I guess my short-term goal is to build a bigger following around here (West Midlands) and then keep expanding from there. I have bigger visions but I think you have to take each step at a time.

And finally, what are your future plans? And is there anything else we need to know?

The EP I put out in December was the first of a three part project called 'Outsider On The Inside'. The second volume will be coming late March, so that's what I'm working on right now. I'll be making videos for some of those tracks too. After all three volumes are done I'll hopefully have decided which of my many other ideas to work towards next, possibly one of the cross-platform projects I mentioned. The EP is available free on my website at www.abelgray.co.uk, and I'm also on Twitter, Soundcloud, Youtube and Facebook if you're interested in updates. Just make sure you spell Gray with an A if you're searching me, people seem to get that wrong often...

Thanks for chatting with us. Good luck with it all – and we will watch this space!

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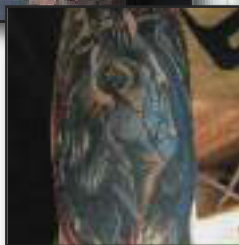
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Album Review & Launch Night 'While the Cats Away... Matt Woosey Will Play' Marrs Bar, Worcester | Friday 20th March

It's only November since Matt launched his impressive *'Wildest Dreams'* album and now hot on its heels we have another release, this time a live recording, together with an Official Launch Night at Worcester's Marrs Bar on Friday March 20th. The songs on this new album have been fermented, bottled & aged and now available to order in a case of 12 distinctive Woosey special reserves. There are the fresh, spicy and sometimes complex, flavours picked from *Wildest Dreams*, sharing the space with the older, but still involving selections from previous crops.



This album was recorded at The Gallimaufry in Bristol and if you close your eyes, settled with a choice glass of something to hand, you are there at that venue. *'Hook Line And Sinker'* surfaces again - a hard edged song to fire up the audience, that has become an anchor for Matt on recent recordings. *'Woke Up This Morning'* sees Matt take to some slide for a bit of fast moving blues, taken from his *'On The Wagon'* album.

Matt then takes us back to 2009 for a short sweet railroading *'99 and 1 Half Days'* and we move on, opening songs corked in previous releases. What this says about the songbook is the sheer quality and quantity of produce that he has released since the early efforts of 2008. This is album number 8 and that's quite a prolific output by any standard. There is a distinct buzz of ambient bar noise throughout as Dave Small accompanies Matt on his cajon, but this is not a real distraction; it naturally adds to the real feel, mixed in with bits of banter and ad-hoc comment from both. The songs also divert in true jam fashion from their original, more deliberate, recordings. Overall it gives the whole album a warm & inviting "come join in the party" touch.

'Wildest Dreams' does supply more tracks than other albums, but that is to be expected as it's later material, fresh to many listeners, and Matt is rightly proud of the work. *'I've Seen The Bottom'* - the darker side of life - is followed by the fine, stalwart song *'Cruel Disposition'*, before Matt takes a few

liberties with Willie Dixon's *'Lil' Red Rooster'*. Matt and Dave decide on one more song: it's the excellent opening track from *'On The Wagon'*, with some lovely guitar and slide, whilst Dave works hard slapping an old box about. Matt's distinctive voice at its grittiest best, it's live and extra sharp grit is in order for the superb, *'Black Smoke Rising'*, played as hard as they can push it to a more than willing audience.

If you are fan of his music, *'While The Cats Away...'*, is a must have. If you are not familiar with the songs, its a must have as a sampler of Matt Woosey music. Either way turn up at The Marrs Bar on March 20th for the Launch Night and grab yourself a great night out and a copy of this worthy album.

I've properly said this before but will repeat myself anyway - Matt is a superb live performer: his guitar, voice and writing are an exceptional combination and this recording showcases

those talents very nicely. Definitely worth taking home, turning up the volume, invite around some company, dim the lights, pour a beer and lose yourselves to the music. Live recordings should contain plenty of atmosphere, whilst retaining a high quality of recording and this album ticks all the boxes.

There is a coach available for Malvern fans, on Fri March 20th for The Marrs Bar Launch Night. Pick up is from West Malvern Social Club or The Nags Head & the £6 return tickets are available via Matt's website and both pick-up locations.

Graham Munn



Hereford Live Presents: Wynona Ryyder Album Launch Party The Barrels, Hereford | Wednesday 18th February

Hereford's very own quirky indie hipsters **Wynona Ryyder** launched their debut album *'Bella Loon'* in early February, and teamed up with **Hereford Live** for a launch party at The Barrels, with the ever-popular city hostelry proving the obvious place to give their new material a public airing.



Prior to the main itself, those arriving in good time were treated to a solo set by **Jake Gamble**, lead singer of Jake of Diamonds, who was playing his last gig in the city before flying out to Australia for an extended stay. With his powerful, rasping voice and sporting a hat that Crocodile Dundee would have been proud of, Jake ran through a collection of original material that included both *'Bianca's Heart'* and *'Oh No'* from the double A-side released in 2014, and *'Clueless'*, which was (not) written on the way to the gig that evening. As a finale, Jake dragged/coerced/persuaded his recent collaborator Katie Keen Green out of the audience for a duet cover of Arctic Monkeys' *'R U Mine'*, which was very well received.

So, onto the headline act for the evening. There was standing room only in the bar by the time **Wynona Ryyder** took the stage, and those present were treated to a flawless run through of *'Bella Loon'* with the tracks played in album order. If you haven't yet had chance to check Wynona out, their style is not easy to describe or pigeon-hole, but combines lo-fi, scuzzy, grungy guitars with melodic vocals. There are distinct elements of the early days of Britpop in the stage presence, with witty, self-deprecating lyrics delivered with the awkward charm of Jarvis Cocker or Graham Coxon.



The tracks themselves showcased a fantastic range of musical and songwriting abilities, from the up-tempo opener *'What's Wrong?'* and the foot-tapping, droll *'Arseholes'*, to the honest and thoughtful *'G.O. Blues'* and the impressively harmonious closing number *'Wasted Journey'*. Frontman and lyricist **JP Baron** was backed up by a well-drilled, tight unit who belied the fact that they'd had precious little rehearsal time, what with the excitement of the album launch.

Wynona left the stage to generous applause and those in attendance will no doubt be keen to know what their future live show plans entail. Hats off to them, to **Jake Gamble**, to **Hereford Live** and to **The Barrels** for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Review: Ed Winchester Photos: B at Gippa



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An English [person] Abroad At Worcester Museum and Art Gallery

Running from January to October, this exhibition at the **Worcester Museum and Art gallery**, like many of its exhibitions, is an opportunity to see some of the things that have been tucked away in the museum stores. But this one has an unusual guest exhibitor – in the shape of me!!

As a trainee in heritage with contacts at the museum I was delighted when I was invited to contribute to this exhibition. The exhibit highlights local people who have travelled abroad throughout history and brought back souvenirs, so my own souvenirs, photographs and stories from a gap year in Australia and New Zealand fit nicely alongside artefacts from the grand tour, pilgrimages and even the hippy trail.



I love the way the museum gurus have created a montage of my photographs and memories, and I ended up with a little display all of my own, carefully crafted by their very own artistic handyman. But better still, I enjoyed seeing my own rucksack and souvenirs alongside Victorian souvenirs from other journeys: they really complement each other.



Other exhibits in this small section of the museum are paintings by local artists or collected by local travellers that depict journeys all over the world and at different periods. There is also a jacket covered in badges that I enjoyed spotting the ones I have in my own childhood collection, and the pile of old luggage really evoke the holiday spirit, at a time of year when we are all thinking about booking our summer holidays as an escape from the wintery weather.

The exhibit is a prequel to the hugely important Stanhope Forbes exhibition which will explore idyllic English scenes from holiday destinations so links nicely to this local collection. **Stanhope Forbes** arrives on 21st March and will be staying over until the 6th June so check it out at your leisure. Don't forget to take a little peek at my own contribution while you are there.

Sarah Ganderton

Check out the art while you wait In the Hive...

This month in the Hive there have been a number of innovative exhibitions, and some were quite sneaky. While you were waiting to see an adviser at the Hub, you could interact with *While You Wait* and listen to podcasts on large headphones. Then you could check out the display about **First World War soldiers** also on level 1. Heading to the café or up to level 3 you could relax looking out of the Hive's lovely big windows at wintery Worcester, framed by the Snowdrops window stickers.

According to Exuent Magazine, '[While You Wait podcasts] allow for a moment of quiet reflection' while you contemplate 'the British queue', in recordings of 10 to 15 minutes by different artists. The different sounds transported me to different places. The art is immersive and exciting, and you never know what might happen next: music, an overheard conversation, a story read aloud, or a series of sound effects that feed the imagination. Although the interactive podcast exhibition in the Hive finishes on 8th March you can still check it out online: www.fueltheatre.com/projects/while-you-wait

The First World War soldiers' stories on display are part of an exhibition called Relating to the **War by A Picture for Health**. The stories are of local soldiers but also those with close connections to people who are still local to Worcester, which is a great way to link the war from 100 years ago to the present day. Although the exhibition was originally on display in Barbourne Health Centre and Thorneloe Lodge Surgery in Worcester it works equally well here, and includes photographs of individuals and commemorative objects as well as their stories. You can learn more about the exhibition



and others like it, designed to help you while you wait in doctors surgeries, at:

<http://apictureforhealth.org/category/exhibitions/>

Finally the **Snowdops** exhibition by **Nathan Garner** is displayed on the windows of the Hive. This is a fitting exhibition for the current wintery weather, with snowdrop patterns made from seasonally flowering snowdrop paintings. When looking out of the Hive's enormous windows the snowdrop/snowflake designs really enhance the Worcester landscape in the wintery sunshine. This exhibition should be on until some time in March, with souvenirs available from the café.

Don't worry if you missed these exhibitions, there are always new ones coming up at the Hive, as well as live acts, movies, and talks and workshops. For more information go to www.thehiveworcester.org to find out about events, or pop in and pick up a brochure.

Sarah Ganderton

Marcus Bonfanti

The Prince Of Wales Ledbury | Sun 1st February

To say it was packed is an understatement; there were of course all the usual faces who love this excellent venue and its Sunday blues session and adding to the already busy room were all those **Bonafanti** devotees within driving range! The atmosphere was electric as Marcus has had a widely acclaimed album '*Shake The Walls*' and was came carrying a 6 track acoustic EP, '*Borrowed Times*', available only at gigs. Much of what was to be heard came from these two discs, with different, mainly solo arrangements.



I will say right up front that personally I prefer Marcus in acoustic mode; that's not to decry the full band - how can I argue with the rave reviews - it's just my taste rooted in 2012 from an acoustic Upton Blues session.

Apart from exceptional guitar skills Marcus' voice is outstanding: rich 99% pure chocolate, with fiery ginger grated over the surface, resulting in a raw edged and deep, dark, timbre. Ignoring his stringed weapons Marcus demonstrated that vocal power with harmonica to hand; '*God Only Knows*' was a stunning start to the evening. The guitar speaks and Marcus asks, '*Is Your Life Better Now I'm Gone*'.. apparently she said yes but it gave him the tale to tell. Ripped straight from the EP, his very own '*Layla*' and then his take on that old tale of '*John Henry*', fingerpicking into the lyrics we are so familiar with. He's having a good time with an appreciative audience, the POW had done him proud - fed him, served him fine malt and as much ale as he needed for the evening - now he was in his element. The gentle '*Bittersweet*', rooted in a previous acoustic EP, preceded a hard hitting blues '*Messin Round No More*' to close the first set and thus an opportunity



if you so desired, to fight your way to the bar. Crowd surfing would have been in order, but for the low ceilings!

'*Honey*' I seem to recall also featured in that EP a couple of years ago and also returned in full band mode, on the album, but here we were treated to a full bodied, thick-set, acoustic nectar: it certainly had the crowd buzzing.

Switching to a more traditional blues riff, '*Jezebel*' is an edgy rock blues number, retaining that punch and stalling half way as Jezebel is called for, before the guitar moves the song on. '*Baby Don't Dance*'.. she doesn't rock & roll either in Marcus's song: the bulk of the set come from Marcus's well crafted pen. There are some fine songs with traditional blues themes: women found, loved and lost & death; but you have to add some spirit and this spirit is '*Cheap Whiskey*': a tale of the demon drink and the fallout that comes with it. What made this more memorable, was the guest pulled from the masses in the packed bar; namely one **Trevor Steger**, from **Babajack**. Marcus needed not to pick his harp up again this evening, passing that particular baton onto Trevor. As so '*Cheap Whiskey*' was never more tasty: a fine vintage, distilled for the occasion.

Next came a particular favourite of mine, the gospel styled '*Run Long*'. I had heard this back at Upton on the acoustic stage run by Babajack. Here that voice seems unbelievably stronger within the confines of this tight little Inn. As Trevor joined in with his precious Danneker harp, I could not resist switching to video mode to record these special moments.

All in all it was a fabulous and unforgettable experience and as the numbers thinned, I took the opportunity to buy the EP as a memory of this great gig. This was Marcus's first and triumphant time at the Prince of Wales - he will return and I for one will be there.

Graham Munn

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Petrol Girls, Calm Like A Riot A Werewolf!, Fight Rosa Fight Firefly, Worcester | Friday 23rd January

Feminist punk rock is needed more now than ever. Some say. And eclectic bills crammed with energy, and original things to say – no matter how oddball or leftfield – are a wonderful, life-affirming thing. (And if you don't agree, well, I guess there's all them tribute and covers bands, eh).

Anyway. Straight outta **Tewkesbury** come **Fight Rosa Fight**. Bright, defiantly low-fi and sparking with the vitality and personality that makes you want to come to these kind of shows in the first place. Musically, this was in the classic San-Francisco / 924 Gilman Street punk rock vein, think early Operation Ivy, but with the social confidence of Dischord records' own Slant 6. With sincere, potty-mouthed and utterly loveable things to say about the trolls and evils of the contemporary UK body politic.

More like this, please.

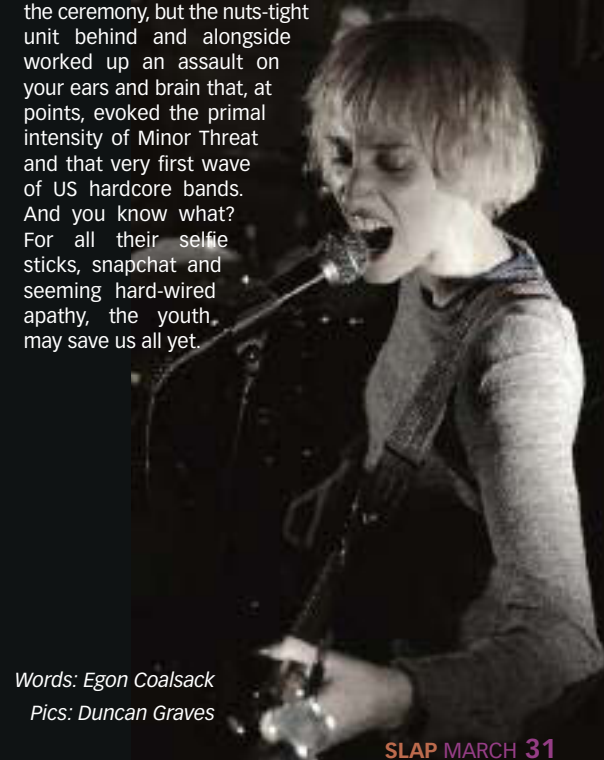


Next: **A Werewolf!** A guitar and drums instrumental mathcore duo going right apeshit fucking bonkers in a small room. This was both spectacularly entertaining and borderline unlistenable, an analogue shitstorm of blocky time changes and technical feats of playing pretty much at the far end of what is humanly possible to achieve. Like a deranged jazz-core Shellac played at two and a half times normal speed. But within the howling sonic bedlam there were hooks aplenty. And how no furniture or fixings got broken in amongst the stage antics – the guitarist ending up jumping around on the bar a few times - is a mystery. Radical.



And then... **Calm Like A Riot**. Indie hip-hop apparently. The product of an ill-advised drunken works Christmas party three-way rut between Ian Dury and PJ & Duncan, this was simultaneously lyrical, knowingly post modern - and a whole party pack of rhyming vocal fun. And impossible not to feel very fond of, despite the faint whiff of shame and unspoken awareness that they really should be doing something better at their age. The countdown of top local libraries – with music – was a high point. And, again, the fact that no-one got hurt during this sweaty little mele of couplets, non-sequiturs and audience entanglement was a probably a good thing.

Headliners **Petrol Girls** were, and are, the real deal. From deepest South East London, they are potentially the nucleus of something exciting entirely of the kid's making; progressive, articulate and infectiously passionate guitar music with heart, that shines a light on the clattering trainwreck that is modern gender politics, with all its rape jokes, twitter vileness and worse. And that suggests there may be better times coming. It also helps that this lot play hard - and rocked like fuck. This was (in all seriousness) some of the most intense and compelling stage work you'll see this close in a venue this size. Vocalist Ren Aldridge mastered the ceremony, but the nuts-tight unit behind and alongside worked up an assault on your ears and brain that, at points, evoked the primal intensity of Minor Threat and that very first wave of US hardcore bands. And you know what? For all their selfie sticks, snapchat and seeming hard-wired apathy, the youth, may save us all yet.



Words: Egon Coalsack

Pics: Duncan Graves

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Mad Malvern Book Promotions

An interesting concept is gathering pace as a variety of Malvern venues continue to host spoken word events with the aim of promoting local authors and presenters.

Though the written word is the main thrust of the happenings, there is space for some acoustic singer/songwriters in the light-hearted/catchy vein, which would be in keeping with the general mood of these events.

At the moment organiser **Jill Peer** provides the musical interludes with her own-penned ukulele songs and indeed she has vowed to provide a tune for each event with the intention of eventually compiling a CD including sketches for a "Ukulele Colouring Book For Grownups".

The aim of these events is to lift spirits, connect with local authors who read excerpts from their works and even buy hand signed copies to support them. The venues for these unique book promotions have varied from a tiny florists to the big basement floor of a local Wetherspoons hostelry, and as you can see from the accompanying poster, the venues get ever more varied including even a dentists!

If you are interested in partaking in any capacity or need some further information please see the ad for Jill's details.

Malvern Book Promoters Mad March Events

Note that the programme for each of the following sessions will vary, so do come to all of them and enjoy a different session with equally inspiring uniqueness. Come join us, lift your spirits and perhaps get an original, personally-signed locally made book

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Tues 10 th March	From 1.30 pm	CAFÉ H20 Wyche Innovation Centre	Walwyn Road, Upper Colwall,	Getting Around
Thurs 12 th March	From 7 pm	Wetherspoons	Worcester Road, Malvern,	Live Music Life, mums & health
Fri 13 th March	3.20 pm to 4.20 pm	CAFÉ H20 Wyche Innovation Centre	Walwyn Road, Upper Colwall,	Kid's Stuff
Sat 14 th March	10 am til approx 3 pm	Lyttleton Rooms	Spring Craft Fair, Church Street, Malvern	Shopping/ Springtime
Weds 18 th March	12 – 2 pm	The Cake Tin Café	The Cube, Albert Road North, Malvern,	Live Music Fun & lifestyle
Sat 14 th & Thurs 18 th March	4.30 – 5.30 pm	Rachel's Cowleigh Gallery	14 Cowleigh Rd, Malvern,	Live Music Mum's Day/ Love
Thurs 19 th March	10 am & 3 pm	The Beacon Dentist	Pickersleigh Rd, Malvern,	Mums & Springtime
Tues 24 th March	From 7.30 pm	The Malvern Book Co-operative Shop	St Ann's Road, Malvern	Live Music Books & Springtime

* £3 entrance to cover refreshments
Ring or Text 07754 950939 – Jill or see www.jillpeertreatments.com

Festival of the Wyche II

Sat 21st March | The Wyche Inn, Malvern

On March 21st, after the successful event last year, The Festival of The Wyche returns to the **Wyche Inn, Wyche Road, Malvern**. The event kicks off in the mid afternoon and goes on until 1am with a late license. Bands this year include **Fury, Stone Cold Killers, Black Russian, Slack Granny, Nuns of the Tundra, The Devil's Well** and **Sunfire** with other acts appearing not yet confirmed. The comedian, **Michael Knowles**, is MC. Updates on the event are on the Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/791950507536991/>. Entry to the event is free of charge. The organisers and lovers of **Mental Metal Mayhem, Chris Walker** and **Jon Charles** have put on other metal nights over the last year at the Beauchamp Arms, Malvern and The Marrs Bar, Worcester. More Mental Metal Mayhem nights will follow this year as the South Midlands is rich in metal acts and interest in the genre is growing.

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Ash Is A Robot, Plane Crasher Cassels, Olanza

Firefly, Worcester | Thursday 12th February 2015

Thursday night in Worcester. More DIY. Lots of it around at the minute. You should try it sometime.



Olanza

Opens **Olanza** had come all the way from Bristol to play their knotty, four-piece progressive instrumental trade. Featuring one of the city's favourite musical sons stage centre, leading proceedings on bass, this was music that pulsed and flexed and grasped you by the spleen. Somehow like a latterday, stripped bare and analogue Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention – as if produced by Steve fucking Albini himself – this was technically accomplished stuff with its own gravitational force. That didn't need to use words to tell you the dark and subversive thoughts it was thinking.

Speaking of thinking. **Cassels**. Impossibly youthful in appearance but strikingly mature in sound these boys were possibly the find of the evening.

With a simple two-piece guitar and drums sound, overlaid with complex, soulful and deft wordplay you could be here all night listing the great bands of yore that you could hear in here: Husker Du, Joy Division – and more currently Sleaford Mods, Royal Blood and yes, the two piece du jour **Slaves**. But with more coherent and intelligent things to say than any of them. Having been



Cassels

hand picked by Radiohead's Colin Greenwood to headline a show in their native Oxford recently, you can but hope that this a band that gets the support and space to develop into what could be something rather special.

And speaking of special. **Plane Crasher**. A special delivery of sonic brutality arising like a fucking 2001 style obelisk from the damp soil of the Welsh Marches. Everyone should check these unashamed Hereford noise bastards out at least once, if only just to see if you can last an entire set without needing

to go for a poo. There's texture and wit in here too though. There's even a Motown / American Soul guitar hook or two if you listen hard enough. And there was also new material. Nominally an artistic departure, taking a more Swans-esque, nightmare shoegaze direction, their new stuff was in experiential terms not unlike how I imagine sticking your head inside the engine of an Airbus 360 - going at full whack - must feel. Exhilarating. But likely to do you physiological harm. Ace.



Plane Crasher

And yes. Speaking of ace. Back for the third time to this little town – Portugal's sexy man-beasts **Ash Is A Robot**. As with most European post-hardcore and underground rock bands, these guys are not bound by stylistic convention, and have no problem whatsoever leaning towards a more classic or mainstream rock sound when it suits them, in a way possibly anathema to punk purists. And still remaining edgy as hell



Ash Is A Robot

when they do. Tattooed and be-bearded force of nature frontman Claudio Anibal was his usual explosive, physical self and still has his olympic-standard lungs. The experimentation with synths and vocal effects and the clean, nineties rock feel of the new material made for a vivid performance, switching as it did in a heartbeat from intense chaos to uplifting melody. Forget Tony Ferrino. These suckers are the real Portuguese musical phenomenon. For real.

Words: D B Schenker Images: Mark Hoy

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Electric, Hungry Ghosts, Frank Turner Death Or Glory Records, Redditch | Sat 21st Feb [Secret In-store Show]

Things may seem to have gone quiet from the Olympic troubadour **Frank Turner** since *Tape Deck Heart* and selling out the O2 Arena this time last year, but he's been busy. Recording a new album, touring with his hardcore side project **Möngöl Hörde**, and playing smaller shows at unlikely venues. Such as this surprise in-store at **Death Or Glory Records** in Redditch, celebrating both the store's first birthday and its support of the town's music and arts community over the past year.

This gathering could easily have drawn ten times the capacity of this shop-cum-fully functioning performance space, even with the mere 24 hours public (i.e. Twitter) notice of the skinny boy from Winchester's attendance. But capacity was reached and the facebook guest list was closed before the line up was announced: this show being as much a thank you to the regular supporters of the shop's shows as it was a chance for local bands to just spend time with one of the most successful alternative acts of recent years. And, in all sincerity, Frank Turner may have largely cornered the arena-folk market but he hasn't lost the common touch. This solo performance of both old and brand new, unreleased material to 70 seemed as natural as playing to 20,000. This was a performance that was undeniably good natured, sincere and packed with soul. And at the end of the day, lanky Frank was simply the opening act, performing for petrol money.

Because this was a full bill. Local heroes **The Hungry Ghosts** took things deep into swampy and dark electric beatnik territory, all Bringing It All Back Home-era electric Bob Dylan meets White Stripes southern discomfort Americana. Ecstatically loud and swaggering, with lyrical content that would stand brooding comfortably on its own on the printed



page, this was heady stuff. Ones to seriously watch. Boot lace ties and all.

Electric closed proceedings with a bright and eclectic blast of nuts-tight alternative party rock. Previously known around these parts - and to the 2013 Isle of Wight Festival - as **Sugar Mama**, this was a syncretic mix of every underground rock style of the past three decades: sometimes Muse- style blocky angularity; others Computers-esque skinny jiggling leg retro-rama, with screams; sometimes three chord simple, first-generation pop punk. But who cares. Those are just words. This was honest, life-affirming three piece rock and or roll.

And quite evidently, it's not just Frank Turner that still believes in the power of Rock and Roll to save us all.

Words: D B Schenker Images: Rob Hadley / Indie Images



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Mines A Triple G & T Sunday 25th January

Sunday the 25th and it was going to be an interesting day: 3 gigs and travel between each, such is the heady life of an unpaid, unemployed reviewer. Sadly as I sit behind the wheel, the other G&T has to wait.

On the menu was **The Prince Of Wales** in Ledbury for **Maz Mitrenko**, the lovely **Chantel McGregor** at **The Tythe Barn**, Bishops Cleeve and finally a relaxed atmosphere in the company of **Mumbo Jumbo**, appearing in the barn at **The Fleece Inn**, Bretforton.

I knew of **Maz Mitrenko**, but had never caught one of his gigs, so the opportunity to join the blues crowd at that mecca of music and bread making, The Prince Of Wales in Ledbury could not be missed. **Maz** along with **Phil Brittle** on skins and **Pete Vickers** on bass were about ready to start as we eased in. The first chord struck like a very short fuse to a stick of dynamite, striking up a bit of Freddy King and 'Going Down'. Straight off, you know you are in for an electric blues set, passionately played by artists of the highest calibre. This is territory that, had the Mississippi flowed North to the great lakes and through Chicago, it would have been the perfect marriage. I like and appreciate the roots from the Delta but the extremities of hedonistic rock guitar tugging at the blues I'm not so sure about. Maz and his band though hit the right note, with songs from Rory Gallagher and of course one James Marshall Hendrix. Taking his guitar riffs far enough but leaving room to appreciate the bass rhythm from Pete and the beat of Phil's timpani to come over. Phil Brittle has been around awhile - a journeyman drummer? No, he's a bit more than that - a gypsy dancing across the skins as he tickles and crashes the cymbals - absorbing to watch with the music etched into his facial expression.

'Hold Onto Your Blues' seems very appropriate and it's pure Maz, loud and raw, a slice of Rory grit and the sandwich is completed by the slow, beautifully presented 'Darkness'. This is the heart of the blues; superb guitar, soulful bass from Pete and Phil lost in that inky blue sky. BBKing's 'Thrill Has Gone' follows and then another from Maz, with 'Drifter'. The band close for a break but not before a stunning 'Hey Joe', rarely bettered I suspect.

The show continued and bits of Rory and Hendrix were again interspersed with songs from Maz himself, then a quick turn up country for a fabulous 'Copperhead Road'. Maz continued with his own, 'Misty Mountain Blue', dripping with the honeyed notes from his guitar. We neared the end and more stunning stuff with Robin Trower's 'Bridge Of Sighs' and then just as I had to leave early for Chantel McGregor, the strains of 'Sweet Home Alabama' followed me down the street. Without doubt, I will be looking out for Maz again in the near future.

Hit the road and a race (all at legal speeds!) down the M50, through Tewkesbury to the lovely setting of **The Tythe Barn** - a gem of a venue hidden away in Bishops Cleeve. Sweet talking my way through, I found Chantel in her dressing room, not long before the stage would beckon, it's true the band and my wife were also there, but what the hell, Chantel was Miss February in my music photography calendar and so I exchanged a copy for her signature across mine. I would have loved to have stayed for the show as The The Barn is a truly

unique setting and the stage looked great, but duty called and I had promised to be at The Fleece, so back to the road.

The Fleece Inn is unusual in that it is owned by The National Trust, but functions as the ancient hostelry of yore. Some great ales and excellent food are part of the package; their Halloumi and Mushroom Burger is arguably the best around. So having grabbed my sole allotted ½ pint and burger, I headed into the cosy barn to find **Mumbo Jumbo** already into their stride.



Stride is the wrong word as they sit at ease with their set of comfortable 'folk' songs and country blues. It's all a rather cosy, happy-go-lucky gig which suits the surroundings admirably. Plenty of humour accompanies songs, mostly taken, from 'The Life Of Riley', you could imagine George Formby grabbing his uke and joining in. Stepping through the door 'Your Gonna Regret It' struck up, a portent of things to come? not really. The sound and scene was set nicely with Chris sat with acoustic bass guitar across his knees, Oliver colourfully dressed as ever sat astride a cajon and trumpet to hand, washboard at his feet, thimbles and kazoo not too far away. Phil is behind his keyboard looking a little sombre, but you know there's a smile there somewhere waiting to come out. Phil's next on vocals with a wonderful bit of old Bessie Smith blues, 'Send Me To The Electric Chair'; a bit grim to be a crowd pleaser, but hell it was good! Oliver at his gritty best gave us 'Those Frail Few', inspired by the veterans of D Day and launched back on Remembrance Day itself. A break was called but not before Chris, in cheery mode, started looking for a 'Bald Spot'. Phil picked up the ending and echoed it through to a fade out - I wonder why?

Oliver opened after the break in full 'Joe Cocker' (R.I.P.) mode with 'The Letter' being superbly performed as ever. Another new song was slipped in after some debate, this being 'Later Some How': the consensus was it worked ok and nobody left the building. All together for 'Three Cool Cats' - made to measure and delightfully delivered - in a cool way of course. Time was moving on and Billy Joe Shaver's 'Black Rose', was up next and the devil made them do it. The uke was in Chris's hands, Oliver clutched his kazoo, Phil still hovered over his keyboard and the result was a glorious 'Mary Don't You Weep'; a rousing, foot stomping, crowd pleasing finish to the evening; but not quite. The 'Rocket' was taken out, dusted off and the boys threw themselves in and lit the touch paper, which sort of takes me back full circle to Maz striking up.

It has been an interesting evening from the raw electric blues of Maz Mitrenko right round to the soft padded, eclectic cell of **Mumbo Jumbo** - they had nicely brought me down, as they rocketed off, for my late drive home. I have not forgotten Chantel; signed & sealed thanks.

Graham Munn

Jo Harman plus Tom Gee

Artrix, Bromsgrove | Fri 6th Feb

Jo Harman has been on my 'must see' list for a while: voted Best Female Vocalist and runner up for the songwriting award in the 2014 British Blues Awards, she is definitely a star in the ascendancy.

But first a few words about her support **Tom Gee**, who was in solo acoustic mode, thus leaving behind the other 7 musicians that usually make up the **Tom Gee Band**. His only accompaniments was 6 string guitar and dry Yorkshire wit, but the rapport with the audience was measurable and the response warm. *'Dead In The Morning'* is more about clearing the fog of sleep than a TV vampire diary. Well written and well performed, it features on the full band's album *'Swapping Stories'* album; a bit of soul with a splash of funk. More banter and a song pointing to past girlfriends, *'Listen To Yourself'*: the song's genre with the full band is funky up Northern Soul meets contemporary blues, but here without the brass and percussion, the songs become much more personal. Tom has serious writing credibility and his band perform regularly at festivals across the country. From interval chat, Tom's set was well liked with one comment saying if this had been a stand alone gig, it would have been well worth the visit.

Now Jo has been 'claimed' by the Blues fraternity, and can be found appearing in Blues sessions and festivals everywhere, but she really sits in that orbiting moon that broke away and produced the great divas of Soul. We are talking from the Jazz and Blues roots of the likes of Billy Holliday through to Nina Simone, with all the wonderful female singers that have emerged throughout the 50's and early 60's. Fundamentally Jo has a stunning voice, rich and dark like a Yucatan honey thats been lightly 'smoked', and as if that is not enough, she has also been recognised for her writing talents as mentioned earlier. Jo opened with a gospel laden, soul classic *'I Shall Not Be Moved'*. People have been recording this song from way back in Charley Patton's day and it was changed to 'we' for the Civil Rights movement - Jo presented it superbly. The tempo was switched up for *'Heartstring'*, with sharp edged percussion giving way to some funky, jazz oriented keys from Steve Watts. Those keys keep Jo solo company for a gentle soulful *'This Is My Amnesty'* and then on to an exceptional *'Ain't No Love In The Heart Of The City'*, which is simply memorable.

A full on hard rock edged *'Through The Night'* follows, driven along by the drums of Martin 'Magic' Johnson with Jo's hair fanning over as she loses herself to the rhythm.

Another of Jo's own songs *'Cold Heart'* follows closely behind, borrowing some lyrics from bygone classics, but the whole remains distinctly Jo's own work - slow, heartfelt, lovely. And then a complete change of direction as the massively popular

Pharrell Williams *'Happy'* lifts the auditorium as one, though we were already happy where Jo had taken us. This number was a bit of fun and the band obviously enjoyed themselves. It's then time for the guitars to be put to work as **Dave Ital** has his moment to demonstrate his skills, ably supported by some solid funky bass from stand in **Yolanda Charles** (she has played alongside the likes of Adele, Jagger and Weller, quite an accolade) for *'Underneath The Bridge'*. This is rock blues from Jo's pen which allows her to give full range to her voice and that range is indeed wide. The keyboard kicks in then the guitars take full control. Brilliant.



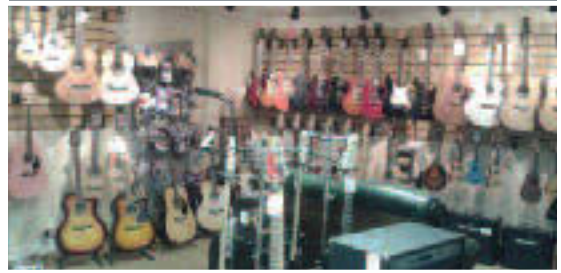
We are not quite finished yet, a truly beautiful 'prayer' is about to be heard and Jo wrote this in memory of her father. She sings it with all her heart and soul and it would not feel out of place in any house of God.

How do you follow such a song? The show has to close so Jo dips into the classic soul bag and pulls out *'I Can't Stand The Rain'*. I can honestly say I have never heard better performed live; this is an absolutely fabulous close to an evening in the company of an exceptional artist.

Graham Munn

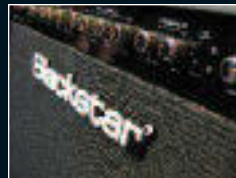
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A Blues Taster at The Fold

The Fold, Bransford | Sat March 7th

The Fold has been hosting a 1 day Blues Festival for 7 years now and this has become a firmly established favourite for music lovers. With attendance numbers swelling to 500 in recent years, the site has the added bonus of being covered should the weather turn bad. This year's line up is impressive, with a mix of styles plucked from the capacious blues basket. Jack Blackman brings the country side of blues, whilst King Biscuit Boys bring harmonica and guitar together in Chicago Blues fashion. A US import in foot stomping raw edged roots blues; Swampcandy bring their double bass and kick drum to drive along the rhythm, as their steel resonator gives voice to slide. More stupendous harp playing will come from Will 'Harmonica' Wilde, who has featured in UK Blues Awards for the last 2 years, and back from the '70's Slack Alice will be at their entertaining best. Chris Hall and The Louisiana Swamp Band are planning a hoedown and more stomping, with their Cajun-New Orleans blues.

And so on March 7th, there is an opportunity to sample an evening of blues, as a foretaste of the main fest, in the company of The Blues Duo, with their distinctive take on Chicago, Maxwell Street Blues. A great night is guaranteed with Tommy Allen and Johnny Hewitt shaking the ageing timbers of the hop barn: Johnny will be blowing a storming harp, as Tommy plays his battered Fender, with a kick drum at his feet. Tickets are £7 in advance or £9 on the night, with the added bonus of a special price for the Blues Festival advance tickets, at only £10 a head.

All this and the delightful food, wines and ales always available at The Fold, make this a must go event.



Artrix in March

Three Slap Mag picks from the ever excellent Artrix in Bromsgrove March events calendar:-

Firstly on Sat 14th March is a rare chance to see multi-instrumental wizard **Phil Beer** and his band. As one half of Show of Hands, Phil has a well earned reputation for his impressive musical skills which has led him to famously guesting on The Rolling Stones' *Steel Wheels* album and also the Poetic Justice album alongside Steve Harley.



Phil's hectic schedule has prevented him from getting his band back together until now, so make sure you take this opportunity to catch Phil and cohorts who will be showcasing their new live album. The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £16 (£15)

Our 2nd choice is **Eddi Reader** who plays Artrix on Sun 22nd March and is of course best known for being in the short-lived but fondly remembered **Fairground Attraction**, who enjoyed a number one hit with *'Perfect'*.

Since then Eddi has forged a successful solo career, demonstrating her incredible ability to assimilate different music styles and making them very much her own. Every song whether traditional or contemporary is brought to life with a unique depth and quality of emotional performance, which is Eddi's hallmark.



Tickets for this special artist are £22.50 and doors open at 7.30pm.

Next up we want to give a shout-out and some love to a continuing local event close to our Slap hearts; namely **BBC Introducing** in Hereford and Worcester. **Andrew Marston** and co have been taking their show on the road since 2011 to showcase the very best of upcoming musical talent in the two counties.

Their mission is and has been to support unsigned, undiscovered and under-the-radar artists, so be assured you will be entertained by some of the hottest acts in town as this free session captures it all live on tape.

Did we mention it was FREE entry?? Definitely an event which deserves every music lovers support. BBC Introducing in Hereford and Worcester is at Artrix on Sunday 29th March

John Shuttleworth

The Artrix, Bromsgrove | February 3rd

If anyone has never seen or heard of **John Shuttleworth** then I implore you to do so. The comedy of Sheffield's much favoured offspring is not so much 'stand up' but more 'sit down with a flask of oxtail'. With just a Yamaha organ and wooden stool, the two hour set began with an explanation as to how a typo on the tour publicity meant that it was now, 'A *WeeKen To Remember*' and had left him feeling obliged to speak about his diminutive neighbour and sole agent, Ken Worthington between his classic songs such as 'Pigeons In Flight', 'Mingling With Mourners' and the sing-a-long tribute to his trusty Austin Ambassador, 'Y Reg'.

The full house at the Artrix in Bromsgrove was in tears listening to his innocuous tales of his family, shopping and his various meals, between the musical interludes; only occasionally having to wait as he regained his train of thought having lost it musing on whether the nectarine could, at one point, have overtaken the peach in popularity and how his disdain for folk music was based on how it encourages slovenly dress. Another classic tempo setting on the Yamaha (No. 51) to accompany 'Two Margarines on the Go' (A nightmare scenario). A harrowing account of how John's wife Mary managed to accidentally begin using a second tub whilst still midway through the first. Well, Kate Bush managed to write a song about her washing machine!

During the interval we were lucky enough to meet him and get a quick photograph for **Slap**, which he mentioned on his return, still concerned about the nature of a publication with such a name and what he may have got himself into.



More tales. More tears. He takes breaks from the various, poorly executed, synthesised drum solos to tell us all about his daughter Karen that works in the same school as dinner-lady wife Mary. Mary on mixed veg and Karen breaking up scuffles in dinner queue. He finishes triumphantly on a medley and the wonderful 'Can't Go Back To Savoury Now', inspired by his daughter leaving her shepherd's pie and John's frustration at only being offered it after having begun his pudding.

As the audience left this wonderful Bromsgrove venue with aching faces, even the merchandise reflected the act. Instead of T-shirts there were T-towels, and next to the assortment of CD's such as 'The Yamaha Years' and 'The Minor Tour' were John Shuttleworth thermos flasks! Something for the wee Ken!

Pablo Raybould



MUSIC AT ARTRIX



DEBORAH ROSE - 5 MARCH

DURAN - 6 MARCH

JOHN OTWAY - 7 MARCH

ELEANOR McEVOY - 8 MARCH

GENESIS CONNECTED 13 MARCH

PHIL BEER - 14 MARCH

EDDI READER - 22 MARCH

PURPLE ZEPPELIN - 28 MARCH

ROVING CROWS - 4 APRIL

JOHN COOPER CLARKE 9 APRIL

ELO EXPERIENCE - 10 APRIL

UPBEAT BEATLES 11 APRIL

RITA PAYNE - 12 APRIL

CLASSIC CLAPTON - 17 APRIL

BLACK / HARDISHULD 29 APRIL







01527 577330 www.artrix.co.uk

Artrix, Slideslow Drive, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ Free Car Parking




@ArtrixArts



Artrix Arts Centre



Circuit Sweet by Naomi Preece

Here at Circuit Sweet we love promoting music, either through our website or our store, in January we welcomed a new release from the Herefordshire/Gloucestershire based duo **A Parliament of Wolves**.

Using a range of hardware electronics, guitars and keys, **A Parliament of Wolves** will attack each listener with a composed aggression and a powerfully layered wall of sound, intricate compositions mixing analogue synths and electronic beats with an array of hard hitting angular guitar riffs.

With the concept of A Parliament of Wolves being formed 2 years ago, with no build up, released their first record to the world. APOW consist of Gloucestershire based sound designer/session musician **Simon Gore** - Keys/Electronics and Herefordshire based touring musician **Oli Montez** - Guitar. Both musicians have been developing ideas, theories and then their own original, unnamed material, creating their first physical EP release away from the public eye, before finally revealing their moniker.

Their fully independent debut release "*I Am A Knife With Legs*" was released digitally worldwide on 15th December with the physical release hitting the Circuit Sweet store mid January. We had the pleasure in speaking with both Simon and Oli to find out more about their new release.

Before we get to the details of your new EP please introduce yourselves and give us some details of your musical biogs.

SG: *My name is Simon Gore, but I go by many names. I enjoy long walks on the beach, romantic candlelit dinners etc etc. I started playing guitar when I was 7 and gigging properly when I was 15. I started writing music with Oli in 2011. [I think...]*

OM: *My name is Oli Montez and I also like to party. I have been playing electric guitar and gigging since the age of 15. I think that 2011 sounds about right.*

When you both sat down and APOW was born, what did you originally want the band to convey and do you think you've achieved this?

SG: *Hahaha! I wanted to play noise rock guitar in dropped tunings and Oli wanted to play bass synth! So no for that part of it. However, one key element of the initial idea was to use drum machines and have them obviously sounding like drum machines. I am a long-term fan of The Kills and the honesty in their work. I like how their beats sound. It's obvious and proud. It's not hiding behind any false pretences or trying to portray it's self as anything more or less than what it is. Other bands like Moon Relay and Dead Ship Sailing are other good examples of the obvious drum machine-loop sound.*

OM: *When we started I had no idea what was going to happen. I just wanted to play anything remotely like Teenage Bad girl - which I still don't know how to do! The thing that surprised me most is how much of a style we have developed. I know it has taken a long time to come to light but everything has found its place and there is a definite direction.*

Tell us a little about your recording for the EP and how you've managed to get to the point of a breakthrough debut.

SG: *We both experiment with a lot of equipment, repurposing obsolete technology and trying out forgotten and discarded "tat". The really impressive and distinguished sounds on the recording have been a result of gear that you would not look twice at in a prestigious music shop.*

The EP was produced by **Harish Jariwala** of Electronic

Music Wales. It really is quite amazing working with a real electronic producer who had an open minded and experimental attitude towards the recording. I can honestly say he is the best producer I have worked with in my life and our tracks would not have half the impact they do, had it not been for his creative input.

OM: *I was at Simon's house playing with some newly acquired kit, when we were done I switched off the old monitor I was playing through and it just sounded magical. The signal degraded over about 10-20 seconds and crushed the sound to this beautiful disaster. Then the quest was on to find the sounds hidden within all our broken and shot out kit.*

It's been tough getting things done; we had some major setbacks - like losing all recorded guitar tracks 48hrs before our debut release! It's also been quite an endurance test, leaving from work to drive for an hour and a half to record all through the night to drive back and to go straight back to work. I hope the effort we have all - Harish Included - put into this translates to the outcome and all that follows.

What does the final finished EP mean to you and what do you feel it captures?

SG: *It's an adequate reflection of a fantastic journey. It's not over saturated in sound or length. It complies with no, single genre allocation but portrays everything we have put into it. I'm very proud of it, I'm very proud of us. It captures exactly what we are.*

OM: *It's like that moment in Falling Down when Michael Douglas just totally loses his shit.*

Enlighten us to what can we look forward to from A Parliament of Wolves in the future?

SG: *Global warming. Oli is convinced he's going to find a Jupiter at a car boot sale, so we might start using a Jupiter if he finds one at a car boot sale. I'm going to get a donkey at some point, I'm sure that will feature as part of our music or art in some fashion. I enjoyed painting the CD's so much I would really like to focus on producing more artwork as A Parliament Of Wolves. We both do other musical projects, I'm sure you will hear of us working independently.*

I have a condition called Irlen's syndrome. As a result of learning and playing keys in APOW I have developed a very simple aid for people playing keys with the condition or similar visual related learning difficulties such as dyslexia. It's a project that I'm currently testing and expanding and looking forward to piloting in education institutions in the summer.

OM: *Seek and you shall find. When music creation has become virtual reality cloud format only I will reap the rewards. As for the band, we don't see each other enough to become divas and hate each other so I'm sure we can knock another one out in my usual timespan of 5 years per release per band. I would also like to begin work on the visuals for our live show.*

You can find the EP release and more details on the new act over at www.circuitsweet.co.uk



Sunday 1 March 2015

Be Bop Da Jig

The Chestnut, Worcester

Erica Halley. Alone And Acoustic

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Ronin Unplugged - 16:00

Iron Road, Evesham

Jazz Club hosted by Jazz Alchemy 1.30pm

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Tom Hingley + The Cornerstones

Stroud Subscription Rooms

The Idle Hands

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Monday 2 March 2015

Jon Gomm

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Rag Mama Rag

Norman Knight, Whichford, near Shipston-on-Stour, Warws

Dry The River

Guildhall, Gloucester

Tuesday 3 March 2015

Grant Nicholas

Guildhall, Gloucester

Wednesday 4 March 2015

The Placebo Effect (Placebo Tribute) Special Preview Performance

Iron Rd Rock Bar, Evesham

Guildhall Sessions feat JP Cooper

Guildhall, Gloucester

Violinist Alessandro Ruisi plays music by Beethoven,

Schumann & Elgar

Evesham Arts Centre

Thursday 5 March 2015

Deborah Rose with the O'Farrells Frolicks & Grey Wolf

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Johnny Kowalski & The Sexy Weirdos + Slaggerji

Iron Road, Evesham

The Luke Doherty Band

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Mercury

Swan Theatre, Worcester

Christina Kulukundis

Prince of Wales Ledbury

Friday 6 March 2015

Counterfeit Sixties

Regal Theatre, Tenbury Wells

Malarkey & Guests

Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Mister Wolf

The Gardeners Arms (Dugout), Evesham

Hannah Aldridge

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Tom Forbes

The Pheasant, Worcester

War Songs 19:14 - 19:18

Guildhall, Gloucester

Gordon Dean - 50s/60s Music

The Vine, Ombersley Rd Worcester

Barron Knights

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

The Dark Side of Pink Floyd

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Henri Herbert

The Convent Sth Woodchester Glos

Hush

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Stuart Woolfenden, Becca, Anthony Price, Heartfire, Tiny

Rockets, Winston's Big Brother, Kevin Nicholson

O'Rourke's Bar, Digbeth

Prolong The Agony/ Vera Grace/ Headcase/ Strike Back

Frog and Fiddle Cheltenham

Junction 7

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Fred Zeppelin

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Linerunners, Seventh Syndicate, Nerve Centre, Demi

Scruffy Murphy's, Birmingham

Neil Ivison

The Old Bush, Callow End, Worcester

Dave Onions

The Black Boy, Bridgnorth

Amanda Stone

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Straight Aces

Moochers, ~Stourbridge

Planet Rock UK

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Duran

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Polary Bear

Subtone, Cheltenham

Nice'n'Sleazy

The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Honey Boy Hickling Band

Queens Head, Wolverley

Band Slam 2015 - 1st Quarter Final

Iron Road, Evesham

Barefoot Serpents

The Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Saturday 7 March 2015

Mister Wolf

The Millfields Social Club, Bromsgrove

Cracked Actors & Social Ignition

Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Hennesea support from Red Dawn

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Tom Forbes

The Lamplighter, Warwickshire

The Blues Duo featuring Tommy Allen & Johnny Hewitt

The Fold, Worcestershire

Glamour of the Kill

Guildhall, Gloucester

Rust For Glory

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Vince Ballard & Marzy's House Band

The Chestnut, Worcester

Songbird - The Music of Eva Cassidy

Swan Theatre, Worcester

John Otway & The Big Band, The Humdrum Express

Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Crazy 88s

Callow End Social Club, Worcester

Tess of the Circle

The Convent, Sth Woodchester Glos

Discofeva

The Cross Keys, Malvern

The Smiths Indeed

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Aquarius

Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Raw Comedy Deadpan Patrick Draper, posh'n'proud

Matthew Baylis and five further comics

Evesham Arts Centre

The Delaray Rockets

Old Halesonians RFC, Wassell Grove, Hagley

Bryn Thomas

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Texas Flood

Iron Road, Evesham

Phil Sayers Born To Boogie Band

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Home Town Tourists

Pavilion, Worcester

Sunday 8 March 2015

Lounge Toad

The Chestnut, Worcester

Eleanor McEvoy

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Yeti Love Acoustic

Iron Road, Evesham

Madi Stimpson

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Andy Thomas Acoustic

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Tuesday 10 March 2015**John McCusker, Michael McGoldrick, John Doyle**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Benny Goodman

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Knebakeye Alley

Subtone, Cheltenham

Wednesday 11 March 2015**The Quireboys Unplugged & Personal**

Iron Road, Evesham

Remy Harris and guests

Queens Head, Wolverley

The Cuginis

Subtone, Cheltenham

Thursday 12 March 2015**Hibagon (Italy), Brocken Spectre, A Werewolf!**

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Undercover Hippy

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Band Slam 2015 - 2nd Quarter Final

Iron Road, Evesham

SLAP Presents Neil Ivson

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

GoGo Penguin

Guildhall, Gloucester

Honeyboy Hickling

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Knebakeyh Alley

Subtone, Cheltenham

Raceweek Special: Henry Marten's Ghost

Frog and Fiddle Cheltenham

Bill Kirchen

Moochers, ~Stourbridge

Friday 13 March 2015**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

Hop Pole Hotel, Market Square, Bromyard

Headsticks & Guests

Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Definitely Britpop

The Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Maher

Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

The Cuginis

Subtone, Cheltenham

Mike Mann

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Gordon Dean - 50s/60s Music

The Vine, Ombersley Rd Worcester

Junction 7

Bar 12, Worcester

George Montague

The Convent, Sth Woodchester Glos

James

The Pheasant, Worcester

Dreadzone

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Mambo Jambo

REDI Centre, Redditch

Liquor and Poker

Moochers, Stourbridge

Guns Or Roses

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Ramonas/ Red Light Rebels/ The Setbacks

Frog and Fiddle Cheltenham

Troublesome Trio

The Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

Letz Zep

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

44 SLAP MARCH**Thirty Six Strategies (Strategy Three LP launch & UK tour warm up show) / Ragweed / Officer Down / Black Tie + The Romance**

The Firefly, Worcester

Electric

The Old Bush, Callow End, Worcester

Steady Edd & The Boogiemen

The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

The Delaray Rockets

The Chestnut, Worcester

Bring your own vinyl night

Pig and Drum, Worcester

The Underdogs

Queens Head, Wolverley

Medicine Spoon

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Barrelhouse Blues Band

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Saturday 14 March 2015**Stuart Woolfenden, Voodoo Club**

Lady Lane Wharf, Solihull

Obnoxious Uk & Mutiny

Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Junction 7

The Green Dragon, Malvern

The Roving Crows

Guildhall, Gloucester

Gblnf^Ce, Kilgor, Tanooki Suit

The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Red Nose St Paddys night With The Dublin Jacks

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Kelly Oliver

The Convent, Sth Woodchester Glos

The Ron Jeremy Band

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Hells Bells

Frog and Fiddle Cheltenham

An Evening with Gordon Giltrap

Rous Lench Village Hall, Worcs

Mister Wolf

The Bull Hotel, Ludlow

Phatti Mango

The Chestnut, Worcester

A Celebration of Neil Diamond

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Come Up and See Me

Pavilion, Worcester

Vinyl DJs

Dysons Got Soul, Dyson Perrins, Malvern

The Phil Beer Band

Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Bad Dads

Stroud Brewery

The Delaray Rockets

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Stroud Ceilidhs - Toothless Mary

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Iron Road 1st Anniversary Party with Knock Out Kaine

Iron Road, Evesham

Sunday 15 March 2015**Maddie Stimpson**

The Chestnut, Worcester

Jim Foray

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Knock Out Kaine Unplugged

Iron Road, Evesham

Wychway Trio Country Band

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Worried Men

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

The Delaray Rockets

The Actress and Bishop, Birmingham

Monday 16 March 2015**The High Kings**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Tuesday 17 March 2015

The Bones
The Chestnut

Funk Down
Iron Road, Evesham

Wednesday 18 March 2015

John Otway
Iron Road, Evesham

Thursday 19 March 2015

Renegade & Retrospect
Iron Road, Evesham

NZZ Blues Band
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Julian Lloyd Webber
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Neil Ivison
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Friday 20 March 2015

Matt Woosey
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Stripped Down Blues
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Abdominal & The Obliques, Dantannabeatz & White Noize
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Stuart Woolfenden, Voodoo Club
Ye Old Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Steve Brookes
The Old Bush, Callow End, Worcester

Gordon Dean - 50s/60s Music
The Vine, Ombersley Rd Worcester

Neil Ivison
The Pheasant, Worcester

Lewis Boulton
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Reflections
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Shipcote and Friends
Norman Knight, Whichford, near Shipston-on-Stour, Warks

The Delaray Rockets
Cradley Heath Liberal Club

The Fureys
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

The GT's
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Bring your own vinyl night
Pig and Drum, Worcester

Murmur
The Secret Garden, Kidderminster

The Fureys
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Dom Pipkin
The Convent, Sth Woodchester Glos

Lucas 'D' & The Groove Ghetto
Queens Head, Wolverley

Band Slam 2015 - 3rd Quarter Final
Iron Road, Evesham

Final Warning
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Red Already with support from Lowrise
Moochers, ~Stourbridge

Saturday 21 March 2015

Chicago Bytes Blues Band
The Holly Bush, Stourport On Severn

Tom Forbes, Lost At Home
Death or Glory Records, Redditch

Poisoned Electric Head & 7 Shades
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

The Bar Flys
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Conrad Carpenter
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Krazy Legz
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Jess Vincent & Reg Meuross
The Convent, Sth Woodchester Glos

Mike Skillbeck
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Junction 7
Swan, Port Street, Evesham

The Capital
The Talbot, Droitwich

Razoreater, Squalords, Fister Of Goats, More Tbc
The Pig & Drum, Worcester

Whole Lotta Led
Stroud Subscription Rooms

Bang on the Ear
The Cross Keys, Malvern

Charity Soul Night
Pavilion, Worcester

Inca
The Ale House, Colwall

Tasha
Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

The Delaray Rockets
Upton Social Club

Alive and Kicking with support from Rhythm Dogs
Moochers, ~Stourbridge

Voodoo Vegas
Iron Road, Evesham

Sunday 22 March 2015

Journeyman
The Chestnut, Worcester

Fights And Fires, Not Scientists, Dee Cracks, Transmissions
Drummonds, Worcester

Steve Brookes in the Afternoon
The Old Bush

Dave Onions
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Eddi Reader
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Hazel O Connor
Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve Glos

Voodoo Vegas (Unplugged)
Iron Road, Evesham

Tuesday 24 March 2015

Beneath The Reef & You Know the Drill
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Ben Walker & Josienne Clarke
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

Lisa's birthday open mic Neil Ivison and Esther Turner
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Thursday 26 March 2015

Stuart Woolfenden, Andrew Montgomery (Geneva), Montmartre
Alfie Birds, The Custard Factory, Digbeth

Dave Onions
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

Minus Inferno + Purple Flavoured Death
Iron Road, Evesham

The ELO Experience
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Comedy Night
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Cherry Lee Mewis
Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Friday 27 March 2015

Flatworld
Cap 'n' Gown, Worcester

Wayne H, DeadFiend, Jonst, Dantics
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Popes of Chilitown & Interrobang
Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Something Special
The Old Bush, Callow End, Worcester

Blue Horizon
The Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Jaz Delorean
The Convent, Sth Woodchester Glos

Skewwhiff
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Gordon Dean - 50s/60s Music
The Vine, Ombersley Rd Worcester

Steve Tilston

Palace Theatre, Redditch

Band Slam 2015 - 4th QF - Hells Addiction vs Bitter Divide

Iron Road, Evesham

Wet Desert

The Secret Garden, Kidderminster

Acoustic Jam Night with Steve Neale

Pig and Drum, Worcester

Kenzo and Tony (Enzo, Kay and Tony)

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Alabamaman

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Karnataka

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Scot Howland

The Pheasant, Worcester

Haunted Souls

Queens Head, Wolverley

Sax Appeal

The Millers Arms, Pershore

All or Nothing

Moochers, ~Stourbridge

Saturday 28 March 2015**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

Woodman, Lower Gornal, Dudley

Electric Soup & Guests

Boar's Head, Kidderminster

Paul Anthony

Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Crazy 88s

Pavilion In The Park, Worcester

Ben Vickers

Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

The Brothers Groove

The Chestnut, Worcester

It's Not Only Rock'n'Roll With The Pontiacs

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Bitterroots

Lamb & Flag, Worcester

Reloaded

The Cross Keys, Malvern

Stuart Anthony

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Glambuster

Marrs Bar, Worcester

Sham69/ Criminal Mind/ Borrowed Time

Frog and Fiddle Cheltenham

The Kitchen Island Band

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Crazy 88s

Pavilion, Worcester

Decades

Moochers, ~Stourbridge

All You Need Is The Beatles

Stroud Subscription Rooms

Sams Town

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

Purple Zeppelin

Artrix, Bromsgrove

101% Pantera (Pantera Tribute) + Metaprisim

Iron Road, Evesham

Dave Onions

The Millers Arms, Pershore

Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman

The Convent, Sth Woodchester Glos

Therapy?

Guildhall, Gloucester

Sunday 29 March 2015**Mark Leedham**

The Chestnut, Worcester

The Delaray Rockets

The Lichfield Vaults, Hereford

The Churchfitters

Littletons Village Hall, Middle Littleton, Worcs

Loz Rabone

Hop Pole, Bromsgrove

The Blue Road

Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Monday 30 March 2015**Mike Sanchez**

Norman Knight, Whichford, near Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire

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Regular Music Sessions & Open Mic Nights

Every Monday - Open Mic
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Every other Monday - Folk Session (see Ad)
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session
The Pickled Plum, Pershore

4th Mon - Singaround
Pidele House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Fortnightly Mon Open Mic
Cafe Mambó @ No.5, Redditch

Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights
Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

First Tues - Open Mic
The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

First Tues - Open Mic with 'Dodgy' Nigel
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Last Tues - Folk Night
The Millers Arms, Pershore

Tuesday weekly Jam night from 8.30pm
Oast House, Redditch

Every Tue Perdido Street Jazz Band
The Fox & Hounds, Lulsley

Every Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly
The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Every other Tues - Acoustic Session
Cap n Gown, Worcester

Every Tue - Open Mic
The Firefly, Worcester

Every Tues - Enzo's Open Mic
Great Malvern Hotel

Every Tue - Acoustic/Singaround (Folk, Blues, Country)
The Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

2nd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session
The Farriers Arms, Worcester

3rd Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris
The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

1st Tue of Month - Acoustic Session with Pauline Molloy
The Cardinal's Hat, Worcester

1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround
The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

Every other Wednesday - Acoustic Sessions
The Cap n Gown, Worcester

Every Wednesday - Irish Session
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Fortnightly Wed Open Mic
The Queens Head, Redditch

Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session
The Major's Arms, Halmond's Frome

Alternate Weds - Acoustic Session
The Plough & Harrow, Guarford

First Wed - Open Mic
The Jailhouse, Hereford

Every 4 wks on a Wed - Acoustic Session
The Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke, Worcs

Every Wed - Olá Samba Drumming
All Saints Academy, Cheltenham

Every Wed - Folk Jam Session
Prince of Wales, Ledbury

Every Wed - Music at The Red Lion
The Red Lion, Malvern

Every Wed - Marzys Jam Night
Marrs Bar, Worcester

3rd Wed of Month - Acoustic Session
The Admiral Rodney, Berrow Gn

Arts & Exhibitions

5th Mar Inside Llewyn Davis by Joel and Ethan Coen.
Cinebar at Scary Canary the Venue, Stourbridge.

6th Mar Playland by Athol Fugard. Malvern Cube 8pm

10th Solitary, film show and discussion with writer/director
at Worcester University EE G087, Unwin Lecture Hall

10th Mouth and Music Spoken word
at The Boars Head Kidderminster

**13th/14th Perfect Circle Theatre presents 'The
Accordion Shop'.** Malvern Cube 7pm

22nd & 29th Dancefest workshops
The Angel centre Worcester

29th March - 'If Wet' on Sound Art Radio 2-4pm

Until 8th 'While you Wait' Installation by Fuel, at The
Hive Worcester

Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James
The Chestnut, Worcester

Every Thurs - Open Mic with Dave Onions
Cock and Maggie, Bewdley

Thursday - Monthly Open Mic Night
The Berkeley Arms, 8 Church Street, Tewkesbury

Every other Thursday, Paul And Rays Sessions
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Every Thursday Open Mic Sessions
The Pheasant, Worcester

Every other Thursday, Bromsgrove Folk Club
Catskill Club, Bromsgrove

Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jamming Session
Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Open Mic
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Every 1st & 3rd Thursday Ben Vickers Open Mic Night
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Every Thur - Acoustic Session
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session
The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

3rd Thur - Comedy Night
The Bridge, Worcester

Every 4th Thurs - Open mic night with Blue Street
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session
The Morgan, Malvern

Every Friday - Open Mic with Lew Bolton
The Unicorn, Malvern

1st Fri - Acoustic Session
The Camp, Grimley

3rd Fri (usually) - Beginners/Improvers Session/Workshop
The Methodist Church, Ledbury

Last Fri - Acoustic Session
The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

Every Fri - Irish Session
St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

Last Fri - Acoustic session run by Mark Stevenson
Wheelhouse Bar, Upton Marina

Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

1st Sat - Acoustic session
The Railway Inn, Malvern Wells

Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm
The Morgan, Malvern

Every Sun 9.30-Midnight - Acoustic Session
Social Club, West Malvern

Every Sunday Unplugged 3pm-5pm
The Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

2nd Sun - Acoustic Session
The Hop Pole, Droitwich

Sunday afternoon jazz 12.00 - 3.00
Lichfield Vaults

2nd & Last Sun - Mixed Acoustic Sessions
The Bowling Green Inn, Stoke Prior

3rd Sun - Singaround format Session
The Galton Arms, Himbleton, Worcs

Every Sunday - Sunday Shenanigans: Open Mic Night
Moochers, Stourbridge

Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish
Pickled Plum, Pershore

2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club
Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Listings compiled in conjunction with NotJustSauce.com

4th-28th Mar The Birmingham & Midland Pastel Society
Artrix Bromsgrove

21st In Another Light installation Finale Croft Castle 7-9pm

Until 1st April Geoffrey Swindell ceramic miniaturist in his
70th year. Bevere Art Gallery, Worcester.

Until 19th April 'Please Return' multi-media by Norwegian
artist A K Dolven. Ikon Gallery Birmingham.

Until 26th April Illustrated Brum - One Hundred Thousand
Welcomes. MAC Birmingham

From 21st March. 'Cut it Out', work by street artists Beastie,
Zabou and Tankpetrol. Gloucester City Museum.

until 11th April - Birmingham Show various artists.
Eastside projects Birmingham

THE MARR'S BAR

MAR
APR 2015

The Vibrators
Saturday 21st March



Monday 2nd March

Jon Gomm

£10 a ticket £12 on the door

Friday 6th March

Fred Zeppelin

£8 tickets £10 on the door

Saturday 7th March

Rust For Glory (Neil Young Tribute)

£5 a ticket £7 on the door

Sunday 8th March

Ethan Ash

£4 a ticket £5 on the door

Thursday 12th March

Undercover Hippy

£5 a ticket £7 on the door

Friday 13th March

Guns Or Roses

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Saturday 14th March

Rhombus

£6 a ticket £8 on the door

Friday 20th March

Matt Woosey

£8 a ticket £10 on the door

Saturday 21st March

The Vibrators

£7 a ticket £9 on the door

Sunday 22nd March

Esperi

£3 a ticket £5 on the door

27th march

3 bands £3

• **Saturday 28th March**

• **Glambuster**

• £5 a ticket £8 on the door

• **Sunday 29th March**

• **Chris Stringer and Anthony James
(Acoustic / Folk) plus Alex Rainsford**

• **Free Entry**

• **Saturday 4th April**

• **Policed (Police tribute)**

• £7 a ticket £9 on the door

• **Thursday 9th**

• **Limehouse Lizzy (Thin Lizzy tribute)**

• £11 in advance

• **Friday 10th April**

• **Flaunt presents... Tidy Boys plus Shaun**

• **Williams, Chris Harris & Russell Priest**

• £10 a ticket

• **Saturday 11th April**

• **TNT All Nighter**

• **TBC**

• **Friday 17th April**

• **The Official Receivers**

• **TBC**

• **Saturday 18th April**

• **Tower Studios Presents...**

• **Reason - stoned cold killers - 3sixty**

• **TBC**

• **Friday 24th April**

• **Hanging Tree**

• **TBC**

• **Saturday 25th April**

• **Riff Raff + Dizzy Lizzy**

• £7 a ticket £10 on the door

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £5

Tickets available from
Marr's Bar and Music City

www.marrsbar.co.uk

01905 613336

Worcester's Premier Live Music Venue

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