

# SLAP

Issue 59

June 2016

FREE



**SLAP** Supporting Local Arts & Performers

WEEKEND CAMPING  
AND DAY TICKETS ON SALE NOW



# LAKEFEST

11th-14th  
**August**  
2016

PRESENTS

## CASTLE STAGE

**PRIMAL SCREAM** THE CORAL NEWTON FAULKNER **starsailor**

AFRO CELT SOUND SYSTEM *we are Scientists* CAST **BIG COUNTRY**

**MOLOTOV JUKEBOX** SECRET AFFAIR NAHKO **Duke Special**  
iMEDICINE FOR THE PEOPLE

*Kevin Lewis* *Cracked* *Erica* *Foreign Affairs* JASPER • IN • THE • COMPANY • OF • OTHERS

## FLOATING GLOBE

3 DAFT MONKEYS • TANKUS THE HENGE • BARBARELLA'S BANG BANG • THE GOAT ROPER RODEO BAND • GAZ BROOKFIELD • POLLY MONEY • LEM AND THE WHITE FIRE • THE MOST UGLY CHILD • NICK PARKER AND THE FALSE ALARMS • THE HONEYFIRE • CLAIRE BOSWELL • TALLULAH RENDALL • THE BEN CIPOLLA BAND • HUW EDDY AND THE CARNIVAL • SAMBARA COLLECTIVE • THE FILTHY SPECTACULA • JACK OF ALL • GRANNY'S ATTIC • ANON AMOS • SPECIAL GUEST DJ SHIPPERS

## CREW SALAM

JAM TIDY • MALARKEY • WATER FOR DOGS • ASH C • MEMPHIS BLUES BAND • A3 INSTITUTION • CHEVY CHASE STOLE MY WIFE • MEG HAYDEN • FUTURE SET • THE HAWTHORNES • THE RIN TINS • JOHNNY KOWALSKI AND THE SEXY WEIRDOS • MOTION ENTERPRISE • BOYS IN THE WOOD

## SECRET IBIZA

8 WITH LIVE P.A. • **BabyD**

JOHN LEWIS • MARK "MARKY MARK" WINTER • TOBY FARROW • DJ SOS • JACK GOODFELLOW • DJ SNIPS • ROB G • GOATDOG DELUXE • MR CAINES • EL-BRUTO • LAURA MAY • VANERIC • SION PUGH • TUDUR JONES • IAN GOULD • WARP NINJAZ



**BUSKERS WALL**



SPONSORED BY **VANS**

**STAY STRONG**

**AT EASTNOR CASTLE DEER PARK, HEREFORDSHIRE**

# SLAP

JUNE 2016 MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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

For advertising enquiries, please contact:  
adverts@slapmag.co.uk

### EDITORIAL

Mark Hogan - Editor  
Kate Cox - Arts editor  
Stephan Work - Sub Editor  
Steve Glazzard - Proof Reader

### CONTRIBUTORS

Andy O'Hare  
Will Munn  
Graham Munn  
Naomi Preece  
Rosie Hamilton  
Duncan Graves  
Rosie Hamilton  
Corina Harper  
Steve Wilson  
Chris Bennion  
Gail Andrews  
Sam Simmons  
Ed Ling  
Gavin Warr  
Jessica Charles  
Neil Woolford  
Helen Davis  
Craigus Barry  
Neil Cox  
Lauren Trim  
Alan Musson  
Verity Dunton  
Ralph Tittley  
Paul White  
Oliver Carpenter  
Trevor Price  
Sophie Austwick  
Geoffrey Head  
Kate Cox  
Stephan Work  
Mark Hogan  
Ant Robbins



@slapmagofficial

Design

Web & Social Media

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Reproduction in whole or part prohibited without permission.  
Artwork, prints or any pictorial media for this publication are sent at owners risk and whilst every care is taken, neither Slap Magazine or its agents accept liability for loss or damage.

### DISCLAIMER

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that adverts and articles appear correctly, Slap Magazine cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by the contents of this publication. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of its publisher or editor.

Ch..ch..ch.ch..changes as a great man once sang.

In our unstable times the arts in general are perched precariously on a seemingly permanent precipice and all are consequently likely to suffer. Thus flux is constant and we must be on our guard against unnecessary losses by our support and involvement.

I'm compelled to write because of certain venues and people having change forced upon them by the vicissitudes of uncaring big business; indeed even pubs/venues that are flourishing get handicapped by ever greedier landlords for their success. We are all also only too aware of much mentioned funding cuts to all sorts of arts institutions.

So this invective is partly a plea for us to stand even stronger than usual and unite to support venues and artistic endeavours, whatever particular area you favour.

As we know festival season is now in full swing and a great number of us will be flailing around a field somewhere and acting irresponsibly, but in a perhaps shock survey published by UK Festival Awards, 55% of people who go to festivals only go to between 1-5 other gigs per year.

Indeed at this year's Upton Blues Festival the organisers intend to stage a campaign with the tagline "You've Been To The Festival - Now Go To A Gig", with the aim of redressing this balance and getting us all (well, over half of us!) off our collectives BTMs more. Yes easier though it may be to stay in with Pringles and X-Factor, it's a helluva lot more fun out there in the real world of local music and arts.

Back to the subject of change, which can of course and often is a good thing. Quite often new owners and regimes breath new life and re-energise venues and to this end there will also be a little shuffle around at this year's Worcester Music Festival in September.

Over the last few years the festival faithful have got used to certain types of music being at the same venues, so this year, with the intent of keeping things fresh, there will be some different promoters working at diverse places. You never know you may discover something totally new that you love - get out of that comfort zone!

*Dishevell-Ed*



Front cover image - Humdrum Express  
by Auther Passey

## Best West Fest

Now something of a Malvern institution the family friendly event of **West Fest** returns once again to the beautiful bucolic West Malvern setting on **Saturday 2nd July**.



Saturday 2nd July

This a festival which prides itself on sourcing all things local, be it musicians, artists, craftspeople and performers, not to mention the food and drink.

From noon until 10pm you can revel in three stages of wide-ranging acts catering to all tastes plus plenty of child friendly activities that you would expect at such a premier event.

One of the most important aspects of West Fest is that it is organised by volunteers with proceeds being donated to many local and worthy causes.

Ticket prices are a very reasonable at £10 per adult, under 18's £6 or a Family Ticket for £20 with under 5's getting free admission.

For more information on all the fun of west Fest please head to [www.west-fest.org.uk](http://www.west-fest.org.uk) and [www.facebook.com/WestFestMalvern](http://www.facebook.com/WestFestMalvern)

## Madness at Drummonds

Selfies galore at **Drummonds Bar in New Street Worcester** when **Madness** frontman **Suggs** dropped in after his 'My Life Story' show at the **Huntingdon Hall**. Apparently he fancied catching a bit of live music so he brought his friends and crew round and according to manager **Toby Gibbon** was well impressed with the pub and also Bromyard band **Stone Farm** - fair play!



## Percy pops up

The rumour mill had been in full flow beforehand - but still a pleasant treat when **Led Zeppelin** frontman showed up at the **Left Bank** in Hereford and performed a couple of numbers with **Deborah Bonham** - sister of the late lamented Bonzo. Promoter **John Hales** of **Porkbelly Promotions** and **Hereford Rocks**



said it was an amazing time - and a treat for the audience and other bands on the billing such as **Raptor** and **Troy Redfern!**

## Drowning in a Wet Desert

Stourport based Pop Rock band **Wet Desert** have released their debut single 'Money, Love, Time' from their album *Drowning In Paradise* - with an accompanying video shot in the Cold War bunker Drakelow Tunnels complex near Kidderminster - busy times ahead for the lads with touring planned for the rest of the year - plus a main stage appearance at **Livestock Festival** alongside The Fratellis, Reef and Jason Donovan!



## Cap'n Gown Commons Capers

More lively debates on matters political at the **Cap'n Gown** pub in the Tything Worcester in the run-up to the EU Referendum on 23 June with landlord **Ted Marshall** holding a weekly hustings session at the revamped occasional music venue - which now features a mural of Question Time at the House Of Commons in recognition of the national following it gathered at last year's General Election!

## Cricket Club Cracker

**Worcestershire County CC** have confirmed headliners for its 12-hour music bash on **Saturday 10th September** as Midlands legends **UB40** - with other acts including **Lulu**, **Heather Small**, **Lighthouse Family** - plus local lad **Jamie Knight** on the bill! The event comes 10 years after Elton John performed to 18,000 fans at New Road in 2006 - but organisers said that this time round they wanted to go for more of an all-day event to appeal to a wide age range.

## Best Bands to Severn Sounds

Seventeen young acts took part in a friendly **Battle Of The Bands** at **Christopher Whitehead Language College** in Worcester with four winning acts landing spots at the **Severn Sounds Festival** in aid of the **New Hope** charity - at **Pavilion In The Park** on **Sunday 5 June** - the 'best' act on the day will also win a recording studio session with Kidderminster's **MAS Records**. Other acts confirmed for **Severn Sounds** over the weekend include **Jasper**, **Institutes** and **Blobbie Williams**...

## X-Rated Cher v Cowell

Malvern singer **Cher Lloyd** has said she would give **Simon Cowell** 'a run for his money' as she's been mulling over whether to return to the X Factor 'talent' show as a judge - the programme has recently slumped in the ratings battle and has lost most of the recent judges except Cowell. Cher scored a number one hit with *Swagger Jagger* in 2011 and is now based in the USA but says she misses her family and British culture - watch this space...

## Hirsute Hipster Horror

Droitwich barber **Antony Kent** is calling on the Government to introduce a 'beard tax' on hirsute individuals of between £50-100 annually - depending on the length of the growth. Antony got the idea from Henry VIII of England and Peter The Great of Russia - who both introduced levies on beards - and he thinks that taxing 'hipster trendies' could help reduce the hole in the national budget. Opposing the proposal, Malvern PC Dave Wise said he 'could understand Mr Kent's position and wasn't sure about his own beard at first, but it grew on me...'



F F

FIREFLY  
HEREFORD



CRAFT BEER BAR & SMOKEHOUSE

- 10 TAPS
- 6 HANDPULLS
- 60 BOTTLED BEERS AND CIDERS



OPEN 12 - LATE MONDAY - SUNDAY

MAD SNACKS STREET FOOD!

PRIME RIBS, PULLED PORK & BRISKET  
ALL COOKED IN OUR OUTDOOR SMOKER!



TACO'S, TIJUANA STREET FRIES  
BEER CAN CHICKEN



SUNDAY'S ROASTS WITH A TWIST AND MORE!!!

MONTHLY OPENMIC NIGHTS  
AND LIVE MUSIC!



TWITTER - @FIREFLYHEREFORD

FACEBOOK - FIREFLY HEREFORD

16 KING ST, HEREFORD HR4 9BX



Keven Robinson



**Clik Clik** is now in the midst of creative madness with summer upon us! This month sees the extremely playful madcap capers of the *Asparalympics* at **Asparafest**, Evesham. It's a Knockout meets school sports day with this crazy activity complete with **Jim Dale** as comedy compare, character board by **Keven Robinson** and the usual **Clik mischief**. Participants are needed so come and find us there! June 4th & 5th [www.asparafest.co.uk](http://www.asparafest.co.uk)



## Story Jams Workshop and Live Event

### Calling families!

We would like to work with families (8+ year olds) for a fun, interactive, family workshop where you will all find a true and engaging story to tell and learn how to stand up and tell them to a small,



friendly audience. **Rhubarb Rhubarb Creatives** are driven by the belief that storytelling is an art form that has been lost through the generations as social media, television and hectic family lives has taken priority. This is how it will work:



### The Storytelling Workshop

We have space for up to 15 (approx. 3 families) to enjoy a storytelling workshop together learning how to find and tell their true to story. It could be one story told from different perspectives within a family, or 15 unique, although true, stories. 2.30pm-4.00pm

### Live Story Jams

Up to 5 people from the workshop will perform their piece in a live Story Jams event in the main bar. Other workshop participants, friends, family members and the general public will be invited to enjoy the fruits of storytelling. 4.30pm - 6.00pm



The live event is part of **Worcestershire LitFest & Fringe**. It will be compered and also feature the newly appointed Worcestershire Poet Laureate as the headliner for the Story Jams.

The Story Jams session is part of a yearlong action research project '**Festival Jams**'. It is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through **Arts Council England** and through funding from the **Worcestershire Arts Partnership**.

Workshop + Live Story Jams £15 family (2 adults + 2 children) or £5 individual. Tickets to watch and support friends and family at the Live Story Jams event £3

**Number 8, Pershore, Saturday 11th June @twohubarbs**  
For more info: [www.facebook.com/rhubarbcreeatives](http://www.facebook.com/rhubarbcreeatives)

And following that, **Clik Clik** will be producing some activities for all ages at the family friendly, **Hopfest** in Bewdley, which supports youth music as well as established bands. With a range of **Clik Clik's** unique creative pop ups, you can expect heavy petting from the **Peggys**, the fabulous **Orly Phillips** with her aerial silks performance and workshop, a chance for children to make themselves some robot heads and masks and get cosmic with our shimmering face-painters! Sat 18th June. [www.hopfest.co.uk](http://www.hopfest.co.uk)



[www.clikclikcollective](http://www.clikclikcollective)



Immerse yourselves in the upcoming **Kidderminster Arts Festival** this August! With loads on the streets and stacks to get involved with, this year it is celebrating the rich musical

heritage of the area. 6th - 28th August.

## Forthright - Gary and Robert Blues

Part theatre, part stand-up, '**The Gary and Robert Blues**' is a funny, angry and poignant story of one man using his creation of a new stand-up act to find a path through his confused and damaged mind and reconnect with the world. Intercut with a blues music soundtrack, this is a powerful and thought-provoking piece, produced by **Forthright** for **Jestaminute Community Theatre** and developed with funding from **Arts Council England**. Written by **Andy Higgitt**, this work started as a thirty minute stand-up to raise awareness about men's health and is performed by **Stephan Bessant**. **June 9th Palace Theatre Redditch, June 10th Worcester Arts Workshop.**



## Dancefest events coming up...

### Big Dance Picnic

Bring a picnic and a blanket to this afternoon of dance and music, with performances by Dancefest children's dance groups and fun activities for the whole family to enjoy.

**Saturday 2 July, 12pm Cripplegate Park, Worcester. Free**

### Vista

Discover **Capability Brown's** landscape as 100 local community dancers perform in spaces and places in the parkland surrounding **Croome Court**. Produced and created by **Dancefest**, **Vista** is a series of short pop





up performances that together make up a 'dance walk' around the well-loved heritage site of **National Trust Croome**.

Starting at 2pm on Croome's Church Hill, visitors are free to travel to different performances around the Island Pavilion, Temple Greenhouse, Walnut Walk and Rotunda.

16th & 17 July, 2pm. National Trust Croome, Worcestershire. Free event included in the entry price to Croome

**Would you like to be part of the Vista Movement Choir?**

**Dancefest** is looking for 100 people of all ages to be part of a Vista Movement Choir, to create simple movement in this beautiful setting, led by choreographer **David McKenna** of **Being Frank Physical Theatre**. It's free to take part but you must be able to attend all rehearsals and performances. Anyone under 14 should be accompanied by a participating adult.

Rehearsals are free and held on Sunday 10 July, 10am-4pm Friday 15 July, 6.30pm-9pm with final performances 16th & 17th (see above).

For information on all events and performances and how to register for Vista, go to: [dancefest.co.uk](http://dancefest.co.uk)

NEVER JUDGE A  
**BOOK...**

Artists explore the book as object in an exciting exhibition in the heart of Hay

**27 May to 17 July 2016 Free entry**

**Richard Booth's Bookshop**, Hay-on-Wye, HR3 5AA  
For special live events visit [www.meadowarts.org](http://www.meadowarts.org)

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND Richard Booth's Bookshop meadow arts

Michael Craig-Martin *Untitled (book)*, 2014  
Courtesy the artist and Gagosian Gallery. Photo: Mike Bruce

## Never Judge a Book...

### Richard Booth's Bookshop, Hay-on-Wye | 27 May-17 July

Venture into the wondrous spaces of **Richard Booth's Bookshop** (Hay's original bookshop and its largest) and you will find, amongst the thousands of new and secondhand books, artworks that inspire, entertain and challenge. Contemporary artists like to explore ideas, challenging our established notions of the world around us. The artists of **Never Judge a Book...** show the book, not as something that we read, but as an iconic object in itself.

The works in this exhibition (featured briefly last month) range from the poignant to the celebratory. **Harland Miller's** playful re-mastering of the classic Penguin cover offers a Pop Art, sardonic and sometimes nostalgic take on literary themes, as does **Michael Craig-Martin's** deceptively simple '*Untitled (book)*', which succinctly embodies the universal understanding of 'bookness'. Four vitrines by **Anselm Kiefer** reference the history of ideas, recalling Archimedes' discoveries with geometry. **Jonathan Callan** bends, cuts and wraps books so they become sculptural forms.



**Rachel Whiteread** is a master in the art of showing the reverse, the ghost of objects large and small. Here, a row of black books glow mysteriously, like shadows on a black shelf.

The exhibition is accompanied by live events at the bookshop, including a workshop where participants can alter books to make pictorial poems with **Emily Wilkinson**, artist's talks, curator's tours and a fantastic performance using books as instruments with Sterly & Snell.

More info at [www.meadowarts.org](http://www.meadowarts.org)



Left: **Rachel Whiteread**, *Untitled (Black Books)*, 1996/97 Courtesy British Council Collection. Image: **Todd White**.

Above: **Anselm Kiefer**, *Archimedes*, 2011. Courtesy the artist and **White Cube**.

# TALK TO US


If things are getting to you

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

 **116 123** FREE  
This number is FREE to call  
**01905 21121\*** (Local)

 [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

 [samaritans.org](http://samaritans.org)

 **visit us** – 10 Sansome Place  
Worcester WR1 1UA



\*Local call charges apply. A registered charity.

## Retrospectively Speaking: Norman Neasom 1930’s-2010 Artrix Bromsgrove | Wed 8th Jun-Sun 10th Jul

Norman Neasom’s art career spanned the decades from the 1930’s until his death in 2010.



The breadth of his work over those years was immense, each decade saw a different approach, a change in style and a change of engagements with a new set of concerns. As a younger man, the obvious concerns of the war years, Spanish Civil War and the rise of Fascism and the 2nd World War were echoed in his images.



His early life spent on his family’s farm, in Birchensale near Redditch, was always a great source of inspiration throughout his life giving him an innate love of the countryside which can be seen in the bodies of work he produced in his later career. He also had a great interest in people and the human condition as described by poets such as TS Elliott, John Betjeman and Dylan Thomas.

This exhibition has been organised as part of Bromsgrove Festival 2016. Please email TC Peppercorn, Exhibitions Co-Ordinator on [outreach@artrix.co.uk](mailto:outreach@artrix.co.uk) or visit [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)

To submit your arts news  
& events email Kate at  
[arts@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:arts@slapmag.co.uk)  
For news and other submissions email:  
[editorial@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:editorial@slapmag.co.uk)



# Voices and Visions 2016

Running until the 3rd of June (so you may need to get their quick!) is the 18th **Voices and Visions**. Voices and Visions was a project I inherited from the old **Worcestershire Arts Education Team** and is primarily a showcase of the best work made in schools across the county. My team within the **County Arts Service** have now been running the project for 5 years now and it is a great showcase of what is best from our schools and beyond in the county.

There are now three elements to 'Voices'. The first is the Visual Arts showcase of work. This takes place at **Worcester Cathedral** and once again we have a fantastic display of work from first schools right through to secondary. The theme is **Your Voice and Your Vision** and I have been really impressed by what schools have displayed and how they have interpreted the subject. From talking and interactive displays to word art to ugly frogs and angry foxes we have it all here.

The second element is three performance showcases. Two of these were at the Cathedral and the third at **The Hive**. Again the theme is **Your Voice and Your Vision** and once again I am excited as to what this theme will mean for young people and the county schools.



The third element is a fantastic week of activity with our good friends at **Worcestershire Youth Music**. Taking place in early July this week will be a great celebration of music in all its forms. I am especially excited by the BBC 10 pieces project which is taking place at **Number 8** in Pershore on Wednesday 6th July where we have 5 schools each providing an interpretation on one of the BBC 10 pieces. It should be a great night.

Last but not least a special good luck to all the festival providers who put in such great work and effort. Hope the weather stays dry and that you have a safe and stress free festival.

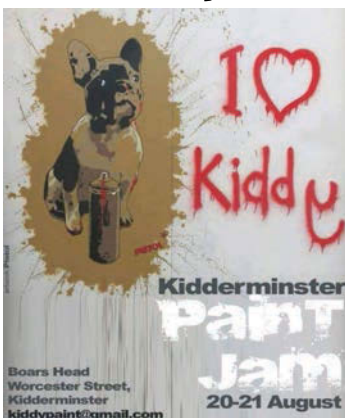
*Steve Wilson*

## Kidderminster Paint Jam

There was a moment at last year's **Paint Jam** on the Saturday afternoon, which I shall always remember. It had been a glorious sunny morning and some of the artists were stepping back to admire their work, when the biggest, blackest cloud I have ever seen climbed over the horizon.

As it arrived over our heads, chaos ensued as the rain pelted down on our beloved **Fringe Festival and Paint Jam**.

Despite this almighty (it really was almighty!) storm, the event was a great success and the standard of the artwork produced is tantamount to that. So much of the artwork still remains, is always a hot topic for people to discuss and still fills me with joy to see bands posing or friends snapping selfies in front of the many great pieces.



This year we are so pleased to announce that we are going to have another go! **Sid and Sandra** are sticking around and Worcester Street will be opening up to showcase live music and entertainment.

The **Kidderminster Paint Jam** (formally **Above Boards** and thank you to those who made it happen) will be happening too and the lineup is already looking very hot indeed.

Artists from all over the country will be coming to join **Deeds** and **Mr Mind Control** (Dom and Aidan to us familiar folk) to make the place look fabulous once again.

Fear not, we are still **LOOKING FOR ARTISTS** and there are spaces still available for those who would like to join us.

**Kidderminster Arts Festival** will also be returning too with another fantastic menu shaping up around the theme of 'Music'. So there will be lots of workshops and live shows.

The **Paint Jam** will be happening on Saturday 20th/Sunday 21st August alongside the **Fringe Festival** and with the **Arts Festival (KAF)** running for a week either side.

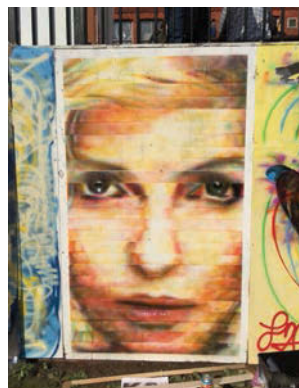
And a quick one from me, don't forget that **Life Drawing** is still running at **The BHG (Boars Head Gallery)**. First Thursday of every month!

We hope to see you there!

For more information or to find out about how to secure a spot please email: [kiddypaint@gmail.com](mailto:kiddypaint@gmail.com) or add the Facebook page, Kidderminster Paint Jam.

Cheers Coz

*Peaches ongoing work at The Sportsmans, Kidderminster and artwork by Deeds*





# worcester arts workshop

We have been incredibly busy here at the **Worcester Arts Workshop**, May was crammed full of alternative evenings from Opera to Shakespeare's music with our audience's experience something a little out of the ordinary. June brings with it an exciting mix of theatre, film and workshops.

Kicking off this month we have a performance by theatre company **Forthright** on the 10th June with their production **The Gary and Robert Blues**. Inter cut with a blues music soundtrack, this powerful show is a mix of theatre and stand-up. The Gary & Robert Blues is a funny, angry and poignant story of one man using his creation of a new stand-up

comedy act to find a path through his confused and damaged mind and reconnect with the world. Trying to understand his own muddled thinking, he looks at the irrational way in which society reacts to mental health issues. Written by **Andy Higgitt**, this work started as a thirty-minute stand-up to raise awareness about men's health. Then the tragic death of footballer **Gary Speed** hit the news, with reminders of the suicide of German goalkeeper **Robert Enke** a couple of years earlier. Drawing on his own experience of depression, Andy spoke to other men, (and their partners), and gathered their stories. The resulting script is an honest reflection of their highs, lows and black humour. The team is completed by great tech support from **Tim Mackrill** and a brilliant performer in **Stephan Bessant**.



**Splendid Cinema** continues throughout June with 2 excellent alternative screening. The first film is **Naji Abu Nowar's Theeb** (cert. 15) showing on the **5th June**. In the Ottoman province of Hijaz during World War I, a young Bedouin boy experiences a greatly hastened coming-of-age as he embarks on a perilous desert journey to guide a British officer to his secret destination. The second screening of the month is **Hsaiiao-Hsien Hou's The Assassin** (cert. 12) on the **19th June**. Yinniang, a Chinese assassin, accepts a dangerous mission to slay corrupt government officials. But when she displays mercy by failing to kill, her master punishes her with a ruthless assignment designed to test the assassins resolve.



## 10 SLAP JUNE



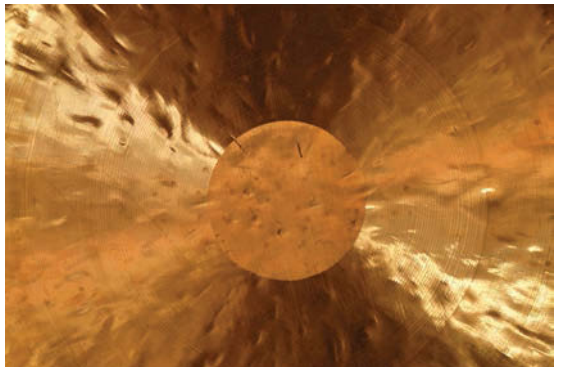
She Makes War

On the **12th June**, **Café Bliss** will be hosting their third **Lazy Sunday** of the year. As **Chris Bennion** said, *'If you want an eclectic afternoon of some wonderfully varied live music for less than the price of a pint of beer; have yourself some delicious Belize cuisine; enjoy a drink in the summer sun with friends then pay a visit to Lazy Sunday at Cafe Bliss... Where else will you find such a diverse array of musical acts on the same bill.'*

This month they have **She Makes War, Davis Lunas, Mark & Beanie, The Blue Dive** and ofcourse the Open Mic to start off proceedings...

On the **26th June** we have the brilliant **Anthony Blakemore** and **Andrew Clacher** delivering their **Sound and Vision Workshop**. Come and experience the unique, sacred sounds of *the gong*, unlocking your inner creative spirit. As the day moves on you can continue your journey of self-discovery by painting visual images in a free expression workshop. Let your inner creative spirit release your visual self in its truest form.

Our mixed program of courses will be re-starting on the **6th June**, we have everything from salsa to textiles on offer with something for everyone. At the end of June, we will be hosting an



exhibition of the student's art work from this term in **Café Bliss** so come and have a look, get inspired for the summer months and see what the courses are all about.

For more information or booking all events, workshops and courses please visit [www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk](http://www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk) or call the WAW team between 11am – 2pm Tuesday - Friday on 01905 25053.

# Lazy Sunday @ Café Bliss

## Arts Workshop | Sunday 8th May 12-6pm

Where else will you find such a diverse array of musical acts on the same bill: a ukulele duo, a couple of singer songwriters, a salsa dancing act and a hip hop soul band?!

Only at **Lazy Sunday** at **Café Bliss**, the heart of the Worcester Arts Workshop is the answer.

The second Lazy Sunday of the year was blessed with an unseasonably hot sun. It was a beautiful day and beautiful people were in the courtyard for some fine live music complemented perfectly by **Eloina's** famous Belizean cuisine.

Open mic events are always a random element and this day was no exception as we had a married couple of ukulele players performing songs that everyone knows. They were also celebrating 50 years of marriage, which was nice.

**Martin Thorn** and a friendly violin player entertained the crowd with a few numbers from Martin's back catalogue. Some of the songs were also celebrating being around for 50 years. Martin is a fine artist and great entertainer.

**Sophonie**, a young singer songwriter from Wales kicked off the featured artist portion of the show and she has clearly written some lovely songs and she plays them with emotion. Her voice is delightfully pure and has surely a bright future ahead her.



There was a break from live music for a few minutes while the crowd got a sneak preview of a new salsa dance class happening at **Worcester Arts Workshop**. A quick demonstration and then volunteers were dragged on stage to be taught a few steps. It looked really easy and I would have taken part but I was too busy, and I had a bad back and I had to press play on the iPod to play music and I wasn't wearing shoes. Otherwise I would have loved to jump up and make a fool of myself. Honest.

It was a quite a stroke of luck to get **Katey Brookes** to play. Her people got in touch saying they had a wonderful singer songwriter who would love to play **Lazy Sunday** but the only date she had free was 8th May. Serendipity eh? Katey's is a wonderfully soulful voice that grabs your attention and refuses to let go; both passionately heartfelt and subtly suggestive at the same time.



Headliners at today's Lazy Sunday were **Boys In The Wood**, a five piece hip hop soul funk band from Gloucestershire. Guitar drums and bass, a visiting sax player and decks. After the chilled out vibes of the last two performers it was time to kick it up a notch and the anticipating audience were expecting something lively. That is exactly what they got as a rock solid backbeat was joined by sweet soulful saxophone and guitar, underpinned with fine rhythmic scratching and dual vocals with the DJ taking on rapping duties for many of the tracks.



Being the sound guy I don't really pay much attention to exactly what is being performed, only that it is sounding as good as I can get it, so that the band are happy with their sound and the audience are getting the best show possible. I don't make notes about the set list, I only take the occasional photo and so I can't claim to be a reviewer. But if I were I would give this band a 10/10 rating. Awesome musicians, obviously having fun doing what they're doing and really nice people as well.

I love doing these Lazy Sunday's. I never know what's going to happen or who I'm going to meet. **Amanda** at Café Bliss is booking some amazing acts for these shows and it doesn't look like the quality is going diminish any time soon.

If you want an eclectic afternoon of some wonderfully varied live music for less than the price of pint of beer then look no further. Add to that music delicious food, a drink (hopefully) in the summer sun, mixing with old friends and making new ones, you can do a lot worse than paying a visit to **Lazy Sunday** at **Café Bliss**, every 2nd Sunday of the month.

Words by Chris Bennion

**LAZY SUNDAY**  
**JUNE 12TH 12 - 6PM**  
**SHE MAKES WAR**  
**MARK & BEANIE**  
**THE BLUE DIVE OPEN MIC**  
**DAVID LUNAS**  
**£3**  
**WORCESTER ARTS WORKSHOP** **CAFÉ BLISS**  
**21 SANSOME ST. WR1 1UH 07821733246**

# WEEKEND CUBE

## June at Malvern Cube brings film, music and quizzes your way!

Kicking off the month on **Friday 3rd June** at 7.30pm we are showing *Sicario* at **White Wall Film Club**. The film stars

**Emily Blunt** as an idealistic FBI agent who is enlisted by an elite government task force official, played by **Josh Brolin**, to aid in the escalating war against drugs. Led by an enigmatic consultant with a questionable past, Benicio Del Toro, the team sets out on a clandestine journey forcing Kate to question everything that she believes in order to survive.... IMDB 7.7/10, Rotten Tomatoes 93%.

**White Wall Film Club** is an open entry club, all you need to do is turn up on the night. Tickets are £5 in advance or £7 on the door. The bar will be open from 7pm for refreshments, so there's even more excuse for a pre/post film discussion!

On **Saturday 4th June** we are proud to bring you Cornish gypsy-folk band **3 Daft Monkeys'** 4-piece line-up features Athene on fiddle, Tim on 12-string guitar & vocals, Lukas on bass guitar and Richie on percussion, adding a fuller and richer sound. The band weave world music influences around classic folk melodies and their passion, intensity and sheer joy of life mixed with their infectious dancing rhythms will leave you breathless, enthralled and exhilarated. The desire to dance at one of their live shows is irresistible! **FolkLaw** support the **3 Daft Monkeys** with their exhilarating new-age folk music that will get your feet tapping and your mind thinking! Inspired by



10 years on the road in Europe and North America, FolkLaws songs are a raw social commentary backed up by some inspirational songs and melodies. Edgy lyrics and vocals are accompanied by intricate Celtic and American fiddle and interwoven with wonderfully distinctive vocal harmonies. Doors open at 7.30pm, with tickets at £8.50 adv £10 on the door.

**The Carnival Records Music Quiz** is back on **Friday 17th June** raising money for **Macmillan Cancer Support**. Do you know Freddie Mercury's real name? What was the Beatles' last number one? Who had a 1978 hit with the song Dreadlock Holiday? If you know the answers to these questions, you enjoy the Carnival Records Quiz. Teams of four battle it out over six rounds of 20 questions, covering everything from classic rock to soul, jazz, reggae, punk, indie, heavy metal, folk, easy listening and more. Test your knowledge on pop's golden age spanning the 1960s to the 1990s (and sometimes beyond). Cash Prize, bar, Nibbles, Vinyl DJs, great atmosphere! For more details visit Carnival Records' Facebook page.

Our second musical offering of the month comes in the form of the talented **Ian Parker** on **Friday 24th June** at 8pm. A songwriter

## 12 SLAP JUNE

genuinely literate, sometimes almost literary, Ian is an original craftsman. Expressed through a distinctive bitter-sweet vocal delivery, Ian's songs hold nothing back. His ability and willingness to share with his audience, naked honesty and genuine emotion, is what sets him apart.

Ian has toured extensively throughout the UK, Europe, and the USA in a career which has established him as one of the UK's leading blues/roots singer-songwriters and guitarists.

Developing a distinctively expressive style, which perhaps explains Ian's ever-growing popularity in the blues world. Roots music continues to form the foundation of his sound, but there are no boundaries in place at this point in Ian's artistic journey, and the emphasis lies firmly on entertaining everyone present. Lovers of the electric guitar will no doubt be pleased to see Ian's Stratocaster back in action! An exciting show not to be missed! Tickets £10 adv £13 on the door.

**Squashbox Theatre** are bringing their new piece *The Sea Show* to us on **Sunday 26th June**

at 2pm. *The Sea Show* is a quirky and hilarious mix of puppet show, natural history and comedy cabaret. Meet crazy characters like Morwenna the 'beautiful' mermaid, Ruan the reformed seagull and salty seadog Captain Pemburthy, as well as a cast of mischievous sea-squirrels, anemones, limpets, crabs and pilchards. Come and celebrate the sea with tall tales, silly slapstick, fantastic facts, live music and songs - unmissable fun for children and adults of all ages! For children aged 5+ and their families.

*The Sea Show* is the creation of **Craig Johnson**, an actor, musician and puppeteer, and long-standing member of Cornwall's renowned Kneehigh Theatre. "Craig is a consummate actor of rare skills. Totally at ease with his audience, adult and child alike, he combines an innate understanding and joy in storytelling with fantastic comic and musical skill." Mike Shepherd, Founder and Artistic Director, Kneehigh Theatre. Tickets £6 Adults £4 Children and £17 Families.

Fantastic events continue in July with **White Wall Film Club's** special anniversary showing of showing *Point Break* and theatre from **Reaction Theatre Makers** who are bringing their fantastic piece about the interconnectedness of all things '*Honey*' to **Malvern Cube** after it's premier at Brighton Fringe. We also have Community and Youth Theatre pieces by **Inter-act**, '**Malvern Source**' and **Perfect Circle** coming your way!

As always tickets for all our events are available from [www.malverncube.com](http://www.malverncube.com) and Malvern Tourist Information Centre.



# Which Bands at Wychwood? Five 'Must-See' Acts At This Year's Festival 3-5th June at Cheltenham Racecourse

In recent years I've spent the winter months hibernating indoors carefully planning my summer festival schedule, studying the first line-up announcements and researching the previously unknown bands adorning the various listings, looking for inspiration and that all important pull.



The Waterboys

One such event that always seems to manage the fine balance between new and established acts perfectly, is firm early summer favourite **Wychwood**, held at the **Cheltenham Racecourse**. Over the last couple of years I've been fortunate enough to both cover the festival and pay witness to a series of incredible sets by everyone from **Songhoy Blues** to **Electric Swing Circus** via **Dreadzone** and **Biopolar Sunrise**. This year the organisers have again come up trumps with an incredible and varied line-up (over 100 bands over 3 days), with the main stage offering the likes of **The Waterboys**, **Idlewild**, **Bill Bailey**, **10cc** and **Justin Fletcher** among others, whilst both the **Big Top** and the **Hobgoblin stage** offer an exciting and varied program of the best up and comers in live music.



Idlewild

Aside from the bigger names over the three day weekend I decided to take a closer look at some of the lesser known bands and come up with something of a must see guide; five acts that you might not know before the festival, but you'll sure to be talking about them long after the festival's final notes have rang out.

Friday's Main Stage sees the likes of the aforementioned **The Waterboys** and **Idlewild** tread the boards alongside **Peter Hook** (of New Order fame) but it's the **Big Top** that really intrigues as alongside emotional indie rockers **Tiger Cub** and the shimmering pop of **Anteros**, come the truly intoxicating prospect of **HÆLOS**, a widescreen trio that blend elements of electronica, trip-hop and modern day R&B to create a mesmeric sound that brings to mind the likes of Massive Attack or a more expansive Portishead.

Saturday brings folk legend **Kate Rusby**, **Stereo MC's**, **10cc** and **Ms Dynamite** all perform during a gloriously eclectic second day at Wychwood and a whole host of bands that I could happily recommend from the hilarious roots of **Folk On** to the beautiful shoegaze of **InHeaven**. I'll be seen dashing from stage to stage though, like a man possessed for **Little Brother Eli** on the Hobgoblin Stage; an absolute must, this Oxford based five-piece fuse a compelling mix of blues, raucous garage, soul and even hip-hop. Their is a contagious sound that has seen them already grace the likes of **The Great Escape**, **Cornbury** and **Blissfields**, whilst also courting the attention of the likes of *Vive Le Rock* and *Classic Rock* magazines, a trend that's set to continue with the release of their debut album, *Cold Tales* (24th June). Back at The Big Top Stage, **Rag 'N' Bone Man** produces an intoxicating combination of hip-hop, soul and blues that has to be heard to be believed.

Kate Rusby



Humm

On Sunday it's **Craig Charles**, **The Selector**, **Bill Bailey** and **The Correspondents** all performing at the top end of the bill but Sunday early afternoon, the only place to be is back at the Hobgoblin Stage for Worcester's finest purveyors of dark and dirty garage rock, **Humm**. Serrated guitars, drum barrages and half hollered vocals clash in a glorious cacophony of edgy, adrenaline fuelled punk blues, a sound that has already seen the band lay waste to numerous venues since their formation. Rounding off my must see bands selection are a band very much on the up, namely **Black Honey**, a Brighton based four-piece that originally operated shrouded in mystery, preferring to allow their music to do the talking.



Black Honey

They originally offered artwork as opposed to band photos before bursting on the scene with their debut EP *Headspin*, combining dreamy psychedelia with outbursts of grunge.

**Black Honey** are set to take the music world by storm, so catch them at **Wychwood** before they hit the cover of your favourite magazine.

Alongside the music, Wychwood offers numerous workshops for children, comedy, literature, stalls and best in festival food, offering something for the entire family.

For more info and tickets visit [www.wychwoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.wychwoodfestival.co.uk)  
See you down the front - *Will Munn*

# Arcadia Roots Ben Vickers

The Marris Bar, Worcester | Sat 30th April

Without hearing a note, **Arcadia Roots** held more than a little intrigue for me as after just a handful of gigs to date the band have already taken the local music scene by storm. With a number of purveyors of taste and associates waxing lyrical about their musical merits, without really being able to explain their sound, I thought it was high time I checked them out for myself.

Prior to the main event, **Ben Vickers** was charged with warming the audience up with a set of infectious, summery reggae. Last time I caught Ben he was performing solo over in Droitwich, running through a variety of covers, peppered with the odd original, but here at an expectant Marris Bar, Ben brought with him local saxophonist **Jon Kasch**, bassist **Alex Knight** plus a set of mostly original numbers. Tracks from Ben's debut EP, *'Keep It Real Funky'* peppered the set, including infectious set opener 'Just' with its relaxed reggae vibe, strummed acoustic guitar and groove some sax lines. Vickers creates a welcoming, upbeat take on reggae, with his effortless croon and choppy guitar, whilst Jon and Alex pepper the sound with deep elastic rhythms and flurries of funky sax lifting the laid back groove to another level. The audience lapped up the likes of *'Sitting On The Roof'*, the brilliant jazzy *'60 Bucks'* (apparently inspired by a dancer in Black Cherry) and a run through Peter Tosh's *'Legalize It'*, before **Arcadia Roots** frontman and rhythm master **Dave Small** joined the band on percussion for a mesmeric jam through *'Justice Is Forever'*, complimenting the band's already infectious groove and topping off an impressive set with a flourish.



Following a quick stage reshuffle **Arcadia Roots** took to the stage and just a glance around the stage suggested something a little different; firstly front and centre Dave Small stood behind a variety of drums of varying shapes and sizes, flanking his sides were vocalist **Maddie Abbotts**, bassist **Josh Terry** and the dual guitars of **Tom Callinswood** and **Danny Gaudin**. From the first patter of percussion the band grabbed the attention as they lay down a tight groove hinting at a world music influence and yet the guitar riffs could have been beamed in from an early seventies rock group. Dave's lead vocal meanwhile, aided and abetted by Maddie's rich soulful harmonies, offered yet another twist on the group's intoxicating sound. By the second number, *'Where You Gonna Run To'*, the rhythm had really begun to take hold and a number of the audience began to move to the dancefloor unable to resist the band's unique but captivating groove. Dave

encouraged with his busy hands banging out a driving beat, whilst the guitarists playfully waltz around the rhythm with a stunning array of bluesy licks.

By the time the band launched into anti-fracking anthem *'Dig A Little Deeper'*, the floor was awash with dancers - who knew politics could be so damn funky?! Further down the line Maddie takes lead vocal duties on the gorgeous *'Searching'*, then Dave dons sticks and beats out an addictive club like rhythm, leading the band into a throbbing, organic dance number *'Primal Rhythm'* bringing to my mind the likes of a frenzied Crystal Fighters. Maddie and Dave's vocals compliment and compete whilst guitars soar and dip effortlessly as the beat plays on, formulating a euphoric high and leaving no feet still. If that wasn't enough a couple of members of Drum Love joined the mix adding further percussion to the glorious sonic stew, as an instrumental jam ensued on the back of a flurry of beats. A track that could have been called *'Keep On Rolling'* saw **Jon Katsch** return to the stage adding waves of sax to the free flowing Roots; musical barriers are torn down here with Ghanian influence, jazz, funk, blues, rock, dance and more!

Time seemed to stand still as the band performed; they probably could have played all night and we, the devoted, would have gladly stayed and danced. All good things though and **Arcadia Roots** left us with a glorious parting shot as they delivered a stunning Richie Havens cover before finishing with a superb (and no doubt, future festival favourite) *'Devil In Me'*, leaving a united Marris Bar audience tired yet satisfied and safe in the knowledge that they'd just witnessed one of the most inventive, invigorating and impressive turns by a local band in a very long time.

If you're a music lover, go see them; if you're a promoter book them; if you're a festival organiser, well you know what to do - **Arcadia Roots** are an absolute must.

Will Munn

**UPSKAWKIN TOWN**

**PRESENTS**

**THE STIFF JOINTS**

plus support

**GENERAL NUISANCE & THE INFECTED HEADZ**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - 19:30pm 2:00am**

£5 ON THE DOOR/STUDENT DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

**PLUS DJs**

**Colin Robot & Digits Mcphee**

**Eleven, 11 New Street, Stourbridge, DY8 1PH**

**SIAP** Phone: 01384 376516 **SIAP**

print & design by andocreative - 07814 024 088

# June Jinks at Artrix

Here at Artrix Towers we're recovering from a memorable 11th birthday party during which we hosted some top talent from across the region. We'd like to thank you lot for all your support over the last decade and a bit because without you we wouldn't be here. A couple of Alka Seltzers and a black coffee later, we're ready to tell you about some of the exciting stuff we have coming up in June.

First cab off the rank is **Mrs Barbara Nice** who'll be darkening our doors along with **Maureen Younger** and **Ian Crawford** for our first ever 'Comedy with Cake' event on Sunday 5th June. Tickets to see the crazy handbag lady and pals are only £5 so book early.



Mrs Barbara Nice

**Gareth Malone** has been back on our TV screens recently with his Invictus choir and the brilliant **Sons of Pitches**, who won his **Naked Choir** competition last year, will be performing at Artrix on Friday 3rd June. With their stunning harmonies, amazing acapella and beatbox rhythm it's easy to see why they were the well-deserved winners of the choir-off.



Sons of Pitches

To celebrate Midsummers Day on 24th June, **Roxy Magic** are all set to recreate the best of Roxy Music's tunes with astonishing accuracy. With very high quality musicianship and a Bryan Ferry doppelganger in the form of Kevin Hackett, this is definitely a date for the diary.

Finally, we don't often mention Artrix cinema in these illustrious pages, but this month we've got some cracking films including 'High-Rise' starring 'Night Manager' hero **Tom Hiddleston**, the tense thriller 'Eye in the Sky' and 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' starring **Jeremy Irons** and **Dev Patel** from the Oscar-winning 'Slumdog Millionaire'. You can combine your visit with lunch or a snack in our brand new café which has just opened in time for the summer.

As always for full detail and tickets please visit our website: [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)

Among the gongs obtained by the man, Ian was named 'Contemporary Singer of the Year' at the 2013 **Canadian Folk Music Awards**, 'Best Male Artist of the Year' (2012 **International Acoustic Music Awards**) and *Musician of the Year* (**Music Nova Scotia 2008 & 2010**).

## Ian Sherwood Elmslie House, Malvern | Sunday 12th June



Starting his music career as an in-demand saxophone player in Toronto, Ian soon began looking for an outlet for his poetic side. His unique musicianship combined with his tales of heartbreak, victory and adventure quickly gained recognition as a solid performer, lyricist and player. Ian plays guitar and saxophone with clever use of looping techniques, incorporating the two instruments into his live solo set brilliantly and puts on an entertaining show. He's a really charismatic performer, who draws the audience in.

'*Everywhere to Go*' is Ian's latest musical creation and his first album to be released in the UK. His energetic stage presence and honesty truly captures the essence of what has made Ian so popular at home and now UK audiences have the chance to find out what has got Canadian music industry buzzing!

Plaudits have been raining in and superlatives abound extolling the excellent newish venue in Malvern that is **Elmslie House**. They really do have a growing calendar of classy events and the latest is award-winning Canadian singer-songwriter **Ian Sherwood** on 12th June. Ian is a musician, storyteller and a constant creator who has penned tunes for many other artists as well as theatre, film and television, but his passion remains primarily for his own unique brand of folk/pop music.

Once again then **Elmslie House** comes up trumps and carrying the coveted Slap Seal of Approval, we would advise early booking for this bound to prove popular gig.

Tickets can be bought via Paypal on the venue's website at [www.elmsliehouse.co.uk](http://www.elmsliehouse.co.uk)

# Malvern's Reaction Theatre Makers present two new performances

## The Magnetic Diaries

LOVE, lust and betrayal are given a new twist as **The Magnetic Diaries** takes to the stage on tour this summer.



The gripping poetry-play by award-winning poet **Sarah James** is an innovative reworking of Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* in a contemporary English setting. Moving lyrical fragments, crafted poems from the heroine Emma's diary, a compelling musical score and voiceover effects all feature in this solo show from **Reaction Theatre Makers**. The atmospherically charged and choreographed production, directed by **Tiff Hosking**, includes an **Arts Council England**-funded musical score devised specifically for the poetry-play by competition-winning composer **Joanna Karsellis**.

**14th June 8pm - The Hive Worcester**, as part of the **Worcestershire Literary Festival**.

Tickets £8 adv. £10 door from the Hive 01905 611427 or on [www.worcslitfest.co.uk](http://www.worcslitfest.co.uk)

**5th July 8.30pm - Ledbury Poetry Festival, Market Theatre**  
 Tickets £9 [www.poetry-festival.co.uk](http://www.poetry-festival.co.uk)

## Honey

A patchwork of life in the Welsh mountains: there is magic at work here, as wonderful as any bee's waggle dance. With a beautiful backdrop of live folk music, *'Honey'* weaves together the lives of a tattoo artist, an autistic boy, his mother, her husband away in the army, and those that want to love them. This is not a story of war, but of community and all those communities that are breaking down. Woven throughout is a quilt, made as a gift for the boy with autism who loves to dance.



**4th June- Market Theatre Ledbury; 8th July - Malvern Cube and 16th July - Blue Orange Theatre Birmingham.**

[www.reactiontheatremakers.com](http://www.reactiontheatremakers.com)

**16 SLAP JUNE**

# Folk Music Evening

**Oat Street Chapel, Evesham | Thursday 9th June**

An exciting new music venture has its debut in Evesham as a 'Folk Treble' evening comes to a lovely 17th Century chapel.

The event will showcase new material from three Midlands-based artists, namely the well-respected singer-songwriter **Colin Pitts**, Birmingham duo **Ashland** and local musician **Mike Weaver**.

All three artists have either just released albums or have them imminent: **Colin Pitts'** latest being titled *'Where The River Bends'*, his writing as ever is largely inspired by the Vale of Evesham. This is Colin's first album in five years and such is his standing that many of his songs have become folk club standards in the region.



**Ashland** arrive in Evesham for the first time after winning many new fans in the West Midlands with a sound which "sits in the area where folk hits the more sophisticated side of acoustic pop" (FATEA Magazine). So far they have released a three track EP and are currently recording their new album which will be available later this year. The duo

are **Kathryn Marsh** (vocals) and **David Sutherland** (guitar).

**Mike Weaver** returned to writing and performing three years ago, and the song *Pembrokeshire Fair*, from his new album *The Others*, was featured on the cover CD of this May's **Acoustic Magazine**. Mike is perhaps best-known locally for co-organising 2015's **Almonry Folk Weekend** and helped to set up the **Folk in the Foyer** series at **Evesham Arts Centre**.



The concert will start at 8.00pm, with doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10, available from: [www.wegotickets.com/event/359113](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/359113) but also on the night. [ashlandduo.com](http://ashlandduo.com) [colinpitts.co.uk](http://colinpitts.co.uk) [mikeweavermusic.com](http://mikeweavermusic.com)

**THE BERKELEY ARMS**  
 HOME OF LIVE MUSIC IN TEWKESBURY  
**Great bands every Saturday**  
 Resident band - **The Future Set** - last Friday  
**Tythe Barn available for Band Practice**  
**Scallywags comedy with Jon Wagstaffe**  
**Third Thursday of the month**  
**Real Ales, Real Food in a Real Pub**

**Church St. Tewks 01684 290555**  
[berkeleyarms01@hotmail.com](mailto:berkeleyarms01@hotmail.com)






**26-32 FRIAR STREET, WORCESTER, WR1 2LZ**

ECLECTIC, ALTERNATIVE BAR  
 POOL TABLE, TABLE FOOTBALL, VINTAGE ARCADE GAMES  
 LIVE DJs EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT  
 SELECTED DRINKS OFFERS  
 FREE WIFI

/ HEROESWORCESTER      / @ HEROESWORCESTER

*the Fleece Inn*

## COMING SOON TO THE FLEECE INN, BRETTFORTON

Join us for a fantastic selection of bands and events in our medieval barn

**Asparafest Music & Food Festival. Fri 3 Jun - Sun 5 Jun, Ashdown Farm, Nr Evesham**

Dodgy / Blackbeard's Tea Party / Roving Crows / London Veg Orchestra / DH Lawrence & The Vaudeville Skiffle Show / Barney Newman / London Philharmonic Skiffle Orchestra / Poor Boys of Worcester / Fred's House and more! [www.asparafest.co.uk](http://www.asparafest.co.uk)

**Mon 13 Jun, 5:30pm - A Flavour of the Fleece – Taste & Tour Evening. £20.**

Join Nigel Smith, Landlord of the Fleece Inn, for a tour of our fascinating building & artefacts.

**Thu 16 Jun, from 6pm. South Midlands Bike Night**

with live music from The Good, The Bad & The Elderly. Free Entry.

**Sat 18 Jun, 7pm. Midsummer Ceilidh with Hekety. £10, Under 14s free**

No experience needed – the caller talks you through each dance, the musicians provide the rhythm, just bring your dancing feet! Hekety mix trad & self-penned tunes, playing cutting edge English dance music!

The Cross, Brettforton, Nr. Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 7JE Tel: 01386 831173 Email: [info@thefleeceinn.co.uk](mailto:info@thefleeceinn.co.uk)

**To Book: [www.thefleeceinn.co.uk](http://www.thefleeceinn.co.uk)**

The Quintessential English Pub

Real Ales and Ciders • Good Food • Apple Orchard • Morris Dancing • Music Sessions • Concerts

# Fools Ball VII

## Elmslie House, Malvern | 30th April

Sexuality, gender, and mental health are at the height of discussion in the media. It's something I pay attention to on a regular basis – as a person not entirely sure of their sexuality themselves, I'm often reading articles, listening to bloggers about their two cents, and regularly absorbing information that might clear the ambiguous haze in my head that is my preferred identity: greysexual.

That's where the **Fools Ball** presented itself as a unique opportunity for me to think more about the muddled mess that is sexual attraction for me. I needed a chance to think more about what makes me tick – if anything. What is sexual attraction? How do I know if I've experienced it, if I don't know what it is?

I was immediately introduced to an act in progress, involving glitter laid out in beautiful arrangement on the floor, and people perched in a circle around it. I was invited by the host to have my wrists tied to those next to me in the circle with material as we held hands. Hypnotic music played and the emotional and physical connection was intense and enlightening, which provided the perfect interactive introduction to what was yet to come.



The evening descended into a buzz of radiant, memorable performances. I took a seat to listen to **Jack Bateman's** performance on his battle with being gay and being accepted, and

how it was a challenge to find his footing in performance arts with the queer label. I was then drawn into **Sarah Sehra's** performance on gender. As she tied the participants together with wool, and snipped away at tangling threads, I felt a strange sense of familiarity, and felt my emotions reaching out to others like an aura.



As the sun set, **Paula Davey** began inviting others in for intense one-to-one performances.

Her paperwork demanded a very specific person to join: a male, within a tight age window, heterosexual. One guest signed up immediately who did not meet any of the criteria. "*Do you lie often?*" Paula asked with her silent paper handouts. "*A perfect match!*" she then stated, and she led the guest by the hand into another room. It was mesmerising to watch as guests disregarded rules and regulations about a theatrical hook-up.

Towards the end, as **Rosebud** and **Death Disco** dominated the dance floor, I crossed paths with **Princess Cupcake** and her incredibly bold performance where she lay naked and invited us to place sweets and syrups and other delicacies on her body in what is regarded as a sexual and intimate moment between two people.

It led me to consider that my label of greysexuality could be a hindrance or a box that I was forcing myself to adhere to. Why should I limit myself? Even if I do consider myself heteroromantic, it doesn't mean my sexuality is straight by default. The sheer intimacy of the performances I took part in opened up my mind to the incredible amount of exploration required for sexuality and self-discovery, and it's an event that I would, without a doubt, attend again within a heartbeat.

*Words: Verity Dunton Photography: Duncan Graves*

# Jules & Vivaldi

## The Bush, St. Johns, Worcester | 1st May

It was late Sunday afternoon and we'd just had lunch with our friends Sue and Steve affectionately known in our house as *The Maggots*. Half way through the first course they told us that on our way home we were stopping at **The Bush** in St Johns to see Jules and his jamming band. Great we thought. Didn't want to go home anyway. We arrived just as the afternoon session had ended. The band were having a fag break so we got ourselves a beer and waited in anticipation.

**Alan** on guitar, **Jules** on vocals and harmonica and **Eddy** on the beat box struck up. If anyone has frequented **The Camp** or various other drinking establishments on the west side you may have come across Jules often singing his Al Johnson style of blues and playing the harmonica. The 'jam' was interesting to say the least.... Alan is an accomplished guitarist, Eddy knocked out a great beat and Jules, well Jules did what Jules does. Great entertainment.

At some point Eddie's dad Alvin persuaded Jules to have a break and we were treated to an uplifting solo from Alan excellently

accompanied my Eddy. It's not often you hear Vivaldi in a pub on a Sunday afternoon proclaimed Al... It's not and it was quite brilliant. They're doing it again very soon so when your full of Beef and Yorkshire pudding check the listings in Slap and head down to **The Bush**.... it was a right good crack.

*Ring Ting 'Arry*



## Keeping that Trem in Tune

Guitar players who make use of their tremolo arms (strictly speaking they control vibrato) are often beset by tuning problems. The heavy duty solution is to use a Floyd Rose or Kahler 'locking' system with a locking nut, an approach favoured by many metal players. You tune the guitar, lock the nut, then use the fine tuners on the trem bridge to correct any small tuning errors. This certainly works but a locking nut changes the feel of the guitar when it comes to bending strings and, perhaps more seriously, you have to call out the RAC if you break a string! Well, maybe not the RAC but you do need Allen keys and the like before you are up and running again.



Fortunately there are ways to keep a standard Strat-style trem in tune — you just have to track down the source of the problem. Many of these were covered in last month's piece on general tuning issues where the problem can often be traced to friction in the nut slots and/or strings not being tied off securely at the tuners. Strings also need to be stretched in if you're to be in with any chance of keeping the guitar in tune.

If you don't mind switching out your tuners, then a set of Sperzel or equivalent locking tuners will help, but they are by no means essential as long as you tie off your strings so that the winds go over the free end of the string and that you don't have more than a couple of turns around the peg. The benefit of locking tuners is that a mechanism pinches the string once it has passed through the hole in the tuner post so you only need one turn around the peg to avoid slipping, and the fewer turns you have, the less chance there is that the string will shift position as you bend strings or use the trem. You can still tune as normal as it is only the string that is locked in the post.

That brings us down to the tremolo unit itself where most Strat-derived designs use either six screws or a pair of posts to support the bridge where two or more springs balance the tension of the strings. If you only want to bend down for dive-bombing, then you can tighten the 'claw' screws in the spring cavity at the back of the guitar so that when tuned normally the back of the bridge rests flat on the body. This gives good tuning stability and means the guitar will hold its tuning if you break a string.

If you want to wail both up and down, then the trem needs to be 'floating', which means the back edge is set typically 3 or 4mm, above the body. The best way to set this is to first tighten the spring claw screws at the back of the guitar, then push down the arm and put a piece of plastic or wood packing under the back of the bridge to lift it off the body by the required amount. The spring tension will keep your packing trapped in place. Now tune the guitar to pitch, then slacken the spring claw screws at the back of the guitar unit your piece of packing starts to come loose. Remove it, retune and you should have a correctly floating trem. Unfortunately, if you do break a string, a floating trem will cause all the others to go out of tune!

Now there are potential problems at the bridge end, specifically excessive friction at the pivot points and, in some cases, wobbly

bridge saddles. The saddle screws are used to adjust the action but make sure both contact the base of the tremolo plate and that the saddle is more or less level. Lubricating the tops of the saddles with a little Big Bends Nut Sauce — the stuff I recommend as a nut lube — may also help.

With a six screw trem, any slight misalignment of the screws will cause tuning issues as can having the screws too loose or too tight. Start by loosening them off by a full turn. The way to judge the correct tightness is to push the trem arm down towards the pickups as far as it will go, then slowly tighten each screw until you can just feel it trying to push the bridge back down, then back off by an eighth of a turn and move on to the next one. You can also lube the screws where they pass through the plate using Big Bends Nut Sauce. Two post tremos and Bigsby style units are less problematic.

On my own guitars I tend to remove the middle four screws completely from a six-screw bridge. If Stevie Ray could do this with the thick strings he used, it's not going to be a problem for the rest of us. The two outer screws now take all the tension but the friction is reduced and the trem much more likely to return correctly to pitch.

*Paul White (Editor in Chief, Sound On Sound Magazine)*



worcester  
**musicstore**

**WORCESTER'S ONLY AUTHORISED  
FENDER & MARTIN DEALER**



*Martin & Co.*  
EST. 1833



*Fender*







**0%**  
FINANCE  
AVAILABLE



**INTERNET  
PRICES  
IN STORE  
GUARANTEED**



**BEGINNER  
TO  
ADVANCED**

**worcstermusicstore.com**

find us: 31 Sidbury • Worcester • WR1 2HT  
(near VUE cinema)

# Circuit Sweet

by Naomi Preece

We did it- we reached 10,000 articles on the site! We are over the moon of reaching this achievement and we can't thank all our readers and supporters enough for continuing to seek and source their music news from us. Thanks also to all the local promoters who, be it through the site or our social media networks, get in touch with us to help further promote their shows. If you're a local act or further-afield and think we can cater for your release, please get in touch and hopefully we can get you on the site. Our team has grown a lot over the last 7 years and we've got talented writers who review the shows we can't get to. We've got writers based overseas and we are very proud to have such incredible people all rooting for CS. And of course thank you to Slap who have let us keep you all in the loop at what we are up to over the last 4 years!

Big news at CS Towers is we are delighted to reveal that Gloucestershire/Herefordshire border based multi instrumentalist **Simon Gore** is the new act under our wings. Gore prefers to consider himself to be a multi-disciplinary sound practitioner. Employing the use of analogue electronics, re-purposing obsolete technology alongside guitar, Gore displays a ruthless work ethic towards sonic authenticity and craft perfectionism – a modernist practicing post modernism. His fully independent debut album release 'ÉN TI', an electro minimalist visceral projection which will play havoc with your emotions, will be released and available online via ourselves in September. The physical release, photo book and digital release will also be officially distributed by Oslo label **Loop Records**. Exciting news indeed!

Also featured on the site this month this month is a live review from **Faithful City's** recent night with **Max Raptor, Fights and Fires, The St Pierre Snake Invasion** and more at Worcester's **Marrs Bar**. Our writer **Gavin Brown** has his great review on the site now, here's a teaser: "Local boys **Fights And Fires** followed quickly after and as soon as the band (back for a hometown show



Portman Photography

*after a European touring jaunt) hit the stage, they simply exploded with an energy that can be sadly lacking in some bands in a live situation and was a total rush for the audience, such was the band's enthusiasm. Fights And Fires brand of breakneck speed punked up rock n roll attitude was a joy to witness and the band's grooving, high octane mixture of Clutch, Turbonegro, New Bomb Turks and Refused is certainly as good as that sounds. With enough exuberance and spirit that puts the majority of bands to shame, Fights And Fires came in and stole the show in the most enjoyable way possible".*

At the time of going to press **Surprise Attacks** hosted Bristol boys **Memory of Elephants** and **Lambhorn** live with Worcester heroes **The Broken Oak Duet** - If you liked what you heard on the night be sure to keep an eye on the site for a special MOE feature due shortly. As we are also now into the festival season our site will be filled with Nozstock and Arctangent features and interviews next month so keep 'em peeled!



Duncan Graves

## Birthday Bash+The Next Decade Launch Artrix, Bromsgrove | Thursday 28th April

An impressive array of talent from across the West Midlands put on a dazzling display to launch Artrix's next decade on Thursday evening. The 11th birthday celebration, which was funded by **Birmingham City University**, was hosted by **Tammy Gooding** from **BBC Hereford & Worcester** and **Joanne Malin** from **BBC Midlands Today** with actor **Stephan Bessant** performing MC duties.



Talulah Blue

Guests were welcomed with colourful pop up performances by hula hoop artist **Talulah Blue**, **Vamos Theatre & Wi're**, **Dancefest's youth dance** company. Students from **Birmingham City University**, accompanied by **Gladstone Wilson**, wowed the crowd with a wonderful rendition of **Roar**. Emerging artists from Birmingham City University and **Birmingham Metropolitan College**, also created an illustration to mark the venue's birthday.

The party continued in the theatre with a variety of impressive performances by comic housewife **Barbara Nice**, Britain's Got Talent runner-up **Julian Smith**, students from **Heart of Worcestershire College** and **Birmingham City University**, **Translucent Youth Dance Company** and **Miss Talulah Blue**.

Guests were on the edge of their seats during the finale as **Kim Charnock** from Birmingham-based **Rogueplay Theatre** put on an incredible aerial silks display during which she was suspended from the roof of the stage.

In a digital presentation, **Hannah Phillips**, Artrix's new director, highlighted the organisation's ambition to widen its engagement with young people and families, to support emerging artists, develop partnerships and to develop innovative digital experiences for live audiences.

She also thanked those who had donated to Artrix's 10th birthday fundraising campaign which raised £13,133.65, beating the target of £10,000. Funds raised are being used to update some outdated equipment and support the venue's outreach and engagement projects. A new **Next Decade** fundraising campaign has also been launched to support the charity's work with children and young people.

**Dorothy Wilson**, Artrix's Chair of the Board of Trustees thanked audiences, **Bromsgrove District Council** and **Heart of Worcestershire College** for their continued support for **Artrix**, adding: "Please make Artrix your own and let's make it even more of a glowing success in the years ahead".

Hear hear say we at Slap Magazine.

# Daria Kulesh

## The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden | 4th May

When you read anything written about **Daria Kulesh**, one word keeps coming up. Exotic. It makes her sound like a Bird of Paradise or a rare orchid, so I meander out to the idyllic rural setting of **The Carpenter's Arms** in Miserden to find out for myself.

A lovely venue this, in the middle of nowhere, with a traditional ambience, a tiny performance space and beautiful acoustics. And despite the abundance of excellent food and happy diners, a remarkably respectful audience.

You certainly would not lose this artist in a crowd. She's a tall, striking woman with a bold and startling asymmetrical hairstyle. She has Russian and Ingush heritage and remarkably, learned to sing in, and speak English by playing in an Irish pub in Moscow.

As if to confirm the power of music to cross geographical, cultural and linguistic boundaries, she begins with an acapella version of that most traditional of folk songs "*She Moved Through The Fair*". Her voice brings the bustling pub to an absolute standstill – it is an exquisite interpretation, without a doubt the best version of a song that I've heard many, many times over the years. And that pretty much sets the standard for the rest of the evening.

The material is mainly drawn from her much-feted debut album '*Eternal Child*' and from her work with the band **Kara**, but there are also glimpses of songs that will be arriving on her next album, '*Long Lost Home*' due early next year.

For accompaniment, she primarily plays a contrasting pair of guitars, with husband Julian on hand to occasionally plug in a lead, forgotten after her between-song interludes.

Her raconteur powers are formidable. She prefaces each song with either small observations or much longer stories, some are amusing, some quirky but a lot more are sombre, exploring the darker side of human nature, particularly regarding the forced relocations and dreadful ill-treatment of indigenous peoples in her native country after World War II. One of the highlights of this evening, and there are many, is the song "*The Moon and the Pilot*" which beautifully and movingly recounts the experiences of separation of her great-grandparents – she also carries and shares with us a photo album full of fascinating period images of her family, including Diba (The Moon) and Rashid (The Pilot).

She picks up a bodhran and gives us a fascinating alternative to her Folkstock Records label mate Kelly Oliver's take on the story of *The Witch of Walkern* – powerful and percussive.

She's also been working with **Kelly Oliver** and several other fine musicians on the **Company of Players** project – celebrating the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare – the result tonight is the haunting "*Lady Macbeth*", which she plays on an Indian shruti box, a cigar box sized hand held harmonium. I think we were all hoping for a fascinating anecdote on how she'd acquired it, but she rather more prosaically reveals that she got it off e-bay!

The entertainment factor never flags throughout her near two hour set - she even arranges a pub singalong – of all things, to "*Kalinka*", which works surprisingly well.

The other thing that never flags is her extraordinary voice, which maintains pitch perfection, whatever demands are made on it – it is a singularly lovely instrument, with an incredible richness and texture and one that will surely raise her out of the ever more crowded pack of artists contributing to the considerable revival of the UK Folk music scene.



Exotic? Not really. More like breathtaking.

Visit: [www.daria-kulesh.co.uk/](http://www.daria-kulesh.co.uk/)

Geoffrey Head



**the wine empourium**

**All you need for homebrewed beer, wine, spirits and cider**

Free sameday delivery to many areas  
Help, advice and samples always available

**Tel. 01527 854198**  
[www.thewineempourium.co.uk](http://www.thewineempourium.co.uk)  
**4 High Street, Studley, Warks. B80 7HJ**

Follow us on facebook [the wine empourium](#) 

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

**SLAP**  
MAGAZINE

SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

**adverts@slapmag.co.uk**

# Joanna Wallfisch

## Elmslie House | Malvern Friday 6th May

That **Joanna Wallfisch** is a musician is no surprise; her father a cellist, her mother a violinist, she is the youngest of a line of noted performers going back beyond her grandmother. That she has an excellent voice in a jazz style is clear as soon as she starts to sing. That she is a multi-instrumentalist is also a given, though the ukulele is a little out of the ordinary. She also makes skilled use of looping pedals, building complex and beautiful multi-part rhythm and vocal tracks live.

What, to me at least, was a surprise was the intelligence and skill she brings to lyric writing. She is prolific, but it is killer not filler.



Her set at Elmslie demonstrated all these abilities and more. The one cover of the evening was of Joni Mitchell's 'All I Want', and audience participation was called for several times. We were also party to her first public mouth-trumpet performance.

She is a confident performer and fills in between songs with witty anecdotes and the back-stories behind her compositions.

A slight memory glitch at one point leads her to call out "Dad, how does this one go?". Dad, sitting in the audience in front of me, says he has no idea, as it is her song! After a few moments experimenting on the keyboard the lost tune is found and the show continues. Then dad, **Raphael Wallfisch**, is called on stage with his cello to duet on her song 'Anymore'.



The sound is beautiful. This is helped by the venue, Malvern's newest, the intimate **Elmslie**

**House Hall**, which has a super acoustic for live performance, a Bechstein grand piano and very high quality sound reinforcement. The house is a Victorian beauty, designed by the architect of Malvern Station, Edmund Wallace Elmslie, and lovingly restored by the new owners **Bernard** and **Anna Taylor**.

After the performance I was delighted to be able to purchase an advance copy of 'Gardens In My Mind', which was recorded at Nimbus Studios, Wyestone by local sound engineers **Matthew Devenish** and **Paul Jones** of **MuMu Audio**, and features the **Sacconi String Quartet** and pianist **Dan Tepfer**. The album will be released on Sunnyside Records on the 22nd of July.

[www.joannawallfisch.org](http://www.joannawallfisch.org)

Neil Woolford



Elmslie Hall is a part-time venue in the heart of Great Malvern, within a restored Grade II listed family home. We hold weekly exercise classes, monthly music gigs and lots more. Why not take a look and see what's already going on. . . ?



Canadian  
Ian Sherwood  
**Sunday 12th June**  
Doors open 7.30pm  
Tickets £12/£10 concs



Look out for exciting news about 'Elmslie Unplugged' music evenings launching this September. Our Designer-Maker craft markets are also returning in the Autumn - the next one will be on September 18th.



Local folk sensation  
Sunjay  
**Saturday 9th July**  
Doors open 7.30pm  
Tickets £12/£10 concs

All tickets available from the website - [www.elmsliehouse.co.uk](http://www.elmsliehouse.co.uk) or call 07789 470780  
E-mail [info@elmsliehouse.co.uk](mailto:info@elmsliehouse.co.uk) Elmslie House, 8 Avenue Road, Malvern WR14 3AG

# Mappfest 2016 | the Bigger One!

It's the same old familiar story. A man holds a little party in his backyard that grows year on year to become a two day mini festival with four stages and more than forty bands performing. A festival complete with stalls, food, a bar, various family entertainments and an expected attendance in the thousands. What? That's never happened to you?

When **Andy Mapp** held the first **Mappfest** in 2008 no one, least of all Andy himself, had any idea how big the beast would become. Yet just eight years later **Malvern Link common** will become a raging haven of rock for two days this June as some of the best original bands from around our musically rich region take to the stages.

This will be the third year that the festival has been held on the common with its natural amphitheater and staggeringly beautiful views of the hills. A view that will be enhanced by the Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster bomber of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Last year the Red Arrows swooped overhead so it's good to see a continuation of the aerial theme. The vintage warplanes will fly over Mappfest on both the Saturday and Sunday.

Most of the bands will perform on the huge double stage that the Mappfest elves have been constructing over the last few weeks. It's forty feet wide with enough space for one band to be setting up while another is performing. This year also sees the introduction of an acoustic stage where solo artists and duos will perform. The fourth stage is run by **Malvern Rocks** and will showcase a variety of local bands on Saturday and performers from the **Chantry and Worcester School of Rock and Performance** on Sunday.



Time of the Mouth

Main stage performers include **Malvern Big Band, Time of the Mouth, Aramantus, Population 7, Institututes, The Loved and Lost, Slack Granny, Dogs of Santorini, Cynic, Massive Head Trauma, The STDs, Raptor, Priests to Pilots, Miss Pearl & the Rough Diamonds, Parkin Lot, Sun Fire, Black Heart Angels, Soul Stripper and Magic Eight Ball.** In the acoustic tent you'll



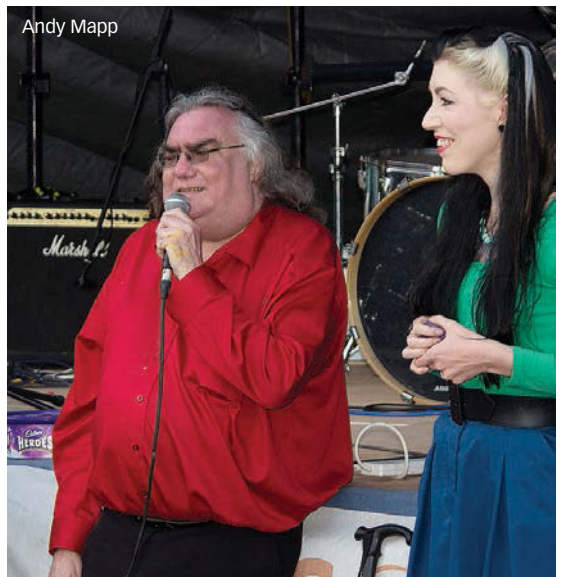
Slack Granny



see **Jack of All, Tone Tanner, Retinal Circus, Stuart Wolfenden, Martin Thorne, Sam Eden and Chewie.** On the **Malvern Rocks** stage the lineup is **Red Dawe, Stealth, Short Stuff, Hennesea, Dirty Harry Band, Skewwhiff, Dinosaur Squeak, Hills Angels and Nuns of the Tundra . . .** and breathe!

But it's not all about the music. There is plenty for the whole family too. From classic cars, minis and hot rods to water slides, a giant tipi and a sci-fi/fantasy procession (whatever that is) with Darth Vader, Imperial storm troopers and the Predator among other fictional favourites. There will be sumo wrestling (no, really) and bouncy castles and pizza and ice cream and raffles and tombolas and prizes and . . . well lots more!

From the start **Mappfest** has been a charity event with all the performers playing for free, the organisers giving their time and all infrastructure and services donated. This year the money raised will go to **Acorns Children's Hospice, St Richard's Hospice and Community Action.** In 2015 the festival raised a staggering **£6400** for **Acorns** and for the **Motor Neurone Disease Association**, in memory of **Andy Hurrell.**



Andy Mapp

The festival starts at midday on Saturday, 18 June with music until 10pm. Then more on Sunday, 19 June from midday until 6pm. As there is strictly no parking on the common, a special park and ride service has been organised, running regularly from Victoria Park, next to the Morgan factory. Set your sat-navs to WR14 2JY.

**Mappfest 2016, The Bigger One** promises to kickstart the festival season in style. Make sure you are there.

Words: RT Photography: Julie-Anne Goode

## Malcolm Holcombe

St. George's Hall, Bewdley | Friday 13th May

'Gloriously imperfect' and 'once seen never forgotten' are two phrases which sum up the enigma that is **Malcolm Holcombe**. Whether listening to him live or a recording, a necessary adjustment is essential to tune into the music of surely one of the most distinctive performers from North Carolina to spread their message wide and far. An imperative view of Malcolm Holcombe is to treasure his importance to the genre of American roots music and revel in the notion of one man flourishing with the utmost non-conformity. This successful promotion bringing a slice of Americana to a corner of north-west Worcestershire could once again reflect in an act of engaging diversity and leaving the folks of Bewdley with a lasting memory.

For me this was a lengthy renewal after first seeing Malcolm play solo at the Kitchen Garden Café in Birmingham several years ago. The vivid memory of a stool balancing – finger picking country blues guitarist has remained intact and the phenomena of this live performer is likewise in 2016. There were two main differences though: the chair rocking rarely surfaced and a rather useful slide guitar playing companion gave the overall music experience a more rounded glow. However still in place were the eccentric mannerisms, rambling stories and extraordinary ability to convey such inner soul drenched in a sound reminiscent of backwoods Appalachia.

It was a perceived brave move to bring such a distinct left field artist to a community setting, but the three figure turnout was a tremendous sight in this challenging age for original live music. It was understandable that Malcolm may not have been to the taste of some people, yet the overall vibe in **St. George's Hall** was positive. It was pleasing to witness so many live music fans being prepared to open their mind.

**Jared Tyler** was the slide guitar player joining Malcolm on this UK tour which had the added bonus of a brand new CD in tow under the title of '*Another Black Hole*'. Not that you get Malcolm in exploitive PR mode, just an artist playing music he believes in and is formed by the prime experience of life. The quips and ramblings were delightfully alluring whether combining the honesty and sinister side to drink, washing dishes for a living or



offering a humorous difference between a motel and a hotel. The mood was a flickering shade of darkness as the gloss of modern life was left on the shelf.

The gruff vocal side of **Malcolm Holcombe** is an absolute understatement especially when compared to the occasional contribution from Jared. It is the perfect mode for the worn and weary style of his songs which demand total concentration, whilst rewarding such acts of dedication. In contrast to the depth of the song material, the music is a feast of simplicity with oodles of mighty picking filling the atmosphere.

In line with their previous presentations, the promotion operating under the banner '*Music in the Hall*' enlisted the services of two local acts to give the evening a sense of variety, while underpinning the essence of music development. An enterprising young blues duo **Two Doors Down** took to the stage for the first half hour to be soon followed by a more experienced blues rock band named **One Tree Canyon**. The latter act filled their set with a mixture of covers and originals. Inevitably '*Wagon Wheel*' and '*All Along the Watchtower*' assumed the role of standards, while a version of John Fullbright's '*Satan and St. Paul*' both intrigued and impressed.

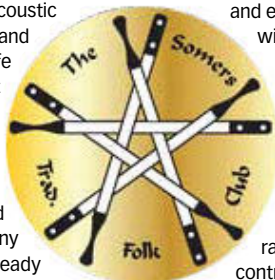
The turnout and subsequently successful venture of promoting this style of music in a market town not too far from a major urban area continues to defy general trends and this is a testimony to the promotion. The booking of **Malcolm Holcombe** presented the opportunity for wider Midlands Americana music fans to catch up with this pure and authentic performer. The good news for the open minded is that Malcolm is in fine fettle, keeping his music true and honest, while ploughing an undeterred individual trail of '*three chords and the truth*'.

[www.malcolmhcolcombe.com](http://www.malcolmhcolcombe.com)

## John Taylor Evening

Somers Folk Club, Worcester | Friday 15 April

Local folk organiser extraordinaire, the late John Taylor (JT), was passionate about raising the profile of folk and acoustic music, leading, supporting and encouraging sessions of all styles in pubs and venues across a wide area. He also promoted acoustic music events, notably the Worcester Music Festival and Earth Fest at The Fold in Bransford, was Folklife Quarterly's local sessions correspondent and sent out a twice-monthly events diary. As a performer JT was a regular at the Battle of Worcester Folk Club many years ago and later a Somers Folk Club stalwart. His stirring renditions of sea-shanties, together with more reflective ballads and contemporary songs, were a feature of many memorable meetings. His strong baritone and steady guitar playing were heard as a friend and collaborator in many ad hoc groupings, and in Foxtail Soup, with Bob and Rebecca Fox, delivering lovely vocal and instrumental arrangements of mostly traditional material.



A full house at the Alma Tavern's skittle alley commemorated JT's many musical interests. So, in addition to Somers regulars, visitors ranged from sessions regulars to Worcester Music Festival organisers, all coming together to share the evening and listen to a wide variety of material from a list of JT's songs. They came from far and wide to honour John's memory: Leominster, Redditch, rural Herefordshire, Kidderminster, Cheltenham, Evesham, Telford and even London (Bromyard Folk Festival's Young Folk winner Fiona Dunn). A particularly special and moving moment came as we listened to a special recording sent by former Foxtail Soup member Rebecca Fox, now living in Canada. And, as JT would have wanted, the chorus singing raised the roof in a heartfelt tribute!

We were glad that John's partner Joy was able to join us and a charity collection on the door raised £111 for the RNLI, thus taking the total RNLI contributions in John's memory to over £1,000.

Full details of the evening and of John's songs, plus photos are on <http://jt-evening.weebly.com>

Sam Simmons



# Faithful City Shows Presents Bathtub/Saltwounds/Bruce Willis/Despite Everything The Marris Bar, Worcester | Monday 9th May

After a few hard shifts in the day job I needed a release, I needed a healthy bout of live music, but on a Monday? Salvation came in the shape of uber-promoters **Faithful City Shows** and those good folk at **The Marris Bar** - a quick text, swallow some food and I'm on the street heading towards the city centre like a man possessed. Hit the bar, first pint in hand, the audience swells to around the fifty mark, maybe more (not bad for a Monday night) and the first band ready themselves, only they've been freed from the shackles of the stage; this one's going to be up close and personal.



Bathtub

**Bathtub** kick off proceedings; an impossibly young looking band open with a barrage of drums and a dark, crunchy riff, before settling down into a more melodic pop-punk direction peppered with outbursts of violent intent. Infectious hooks collide dangerously with moments of near hardcore intensity as the band deliver an impressive, punchy set powered led by frontman Fraser Cassling (also of Worcester hardcore types Flatline). The band drew the audience in with an collection of impressive and energetic anthems lifted from their debut EP *'Mud Valley'*, with set closer *'I Don't Like You Anymore'* being an obvious highlight with its catchy vocal refrain and melodic guitar hook. Bathtub impressed greatly; a young band full of fire, attitude and most importantly memorable songs - expect to hear a great deal more from this lot in the future.

Fellow Worcester representatives **Saltwounds** were next to tread the boards, another new name to these ears, but featuring **Ryan Price** the **Fights & Fires'** guitarist among their number. Whilst these bands may share a guitarist, Saltwounds are of a more melodic persuasion. The four-piece band formed only last



Saltwounds



Bruce Willis

year, but already the band have crafted an array of short sharp rockers that instantly worm and bury their way into your skull, forcing you to holler along. Fast, spiky verses full of energetic riffs and rhythmic blasts are often complimented by big hook infused choruses more reminiscent of Lucero or The Gaslight Anthem on full tilt, leaving the listener something to hang onto as they tear through another high octane anthem. Not only do Saltwounds have the tracks and the sound, they also have an undeniable energy which saw all bar the drummer making forays into the welcoming audience, as they greedily fed from the enthusiastic response, leaving band and audience alike, tired but jubilant as Saltwounds finished with a triumphant *'Get Up'*.

Charged with the unenviable task of following Worcester's fastest up and comers were Brighton based four-piece **Bruce Willis**. Turning their amps to eleven the band bashed out a slightly more aggressive take on the punk genre, harking back to the days of aggression and attitude were more important than melody. The band possessed a decent amount of energy, but most of the material lacked that all important hook or lasting message and whilst the two vocalists put a great deal into their performance, neither had the voice to match, grunting more than growling their way through a short set of serrated riffs, explosive drums and little else.

**Despite Everything** are a four-piece hailing from the unlikely punk mecca of Athens but rounded the night off in style with a rousing set of punchy melodic punk anthems full of infectious melodies and instant vocal hooks, lifted from their debut album *'The Dawn Chorus'* and latest offering *'Trails'*. The band formed back in 2008 and that experience shone through during their set, commanding the audiences attention from the off. These seasoned pros delivered a flurry of riffs, well drilled rhythms and a gravelly, weathered lead vocal that somehow added further gravitas to the band's impressive performance. With the likes of quality tune *'Inbetweeners'* going down a storm with the crowd, this ensured a frenzied scramble for the merch table at nights end.



Despite Everything

**Faithful City** have once again proved that no matter the day of the week, these promoters can deliver not only a collection of quality acts, but also a fevered and appreciative audience which lap up anything that the FCS crew have to offer. Thanks to these boys, punk and hardcore is alive and thriving here in the heart of Worcester.

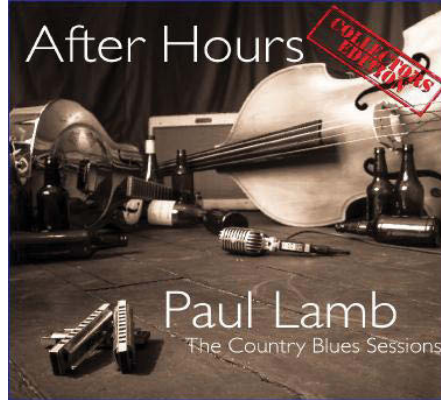
Words: Barry 'Ard To The' Core Photography: Duncan Graves

## Paul Lamb | After Hours

Paul Lamb is no stranger to these parts as he regularly performs at the glorious **Prince Of Wales** in Ledbury and has also played **Artrix** in Bromsgrove. For those who may not know, Paul is arguably the finest harmonica player in the UK; a multi award winning artist who holds court in the British Blues Hall Of Fame.

This album which was released on May 26th, is unashamedly subtitled *'The Country Blues Sessions'* and it is an absolute delight to listen to. We start with *'Stranger Blues'* and it feels just like Paul plus band are sat with you in the room; the beautiful harmonica accompanied by the softly brushed drums of **Dino Roccia**. You will also find **Chad Strenz**, **Rod Demick** and **Paula Riordan**, squeezing into your sitting room, with Chad taking

the vocal lead on *'Quit That Woman'*, allowing Paul to work his magic on that harp. The album contains some fine old country/traditional blues throughout, with songs from the pens of both Paul and son Ricky: *'She's Fine, Like Summer Wine'* is one of these with its traditional, road-shack bar, Delta style going on. *'Down By The Riverside'*, emanating from the days of the American civil war, sounds like a bit of a party session as they all join in, but there's no mistaken Paul's whooping and harp pushing it all along.



*'Mystery Train'* takes the pace up as the harp blows its warning to clear the track, heading on down the line and pulling in for Sonny Boy Williamson. You cannot have a harmonica driven album without Sonny turning up and here he is at the *'Back Door'*. We're soon heading toward home, Paul's *'Coming Down from Newcastle'* (is that relegation blues?) led by the guitar with a few comments in tow. *'Don't Get Around Much Anymore'* is a foot-tapping cracker with that ever superlative harp - it's pure, it's perfect and that's why his reign continues.

The penultimate track comes from the pairing of Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee with *'Preachin' The Blues'* and it's a bit of a classic, feeding nicely into *'Jammin' With The Preacher'*, a collaboration of both Lamb's, Paula Riordan and the voice sampling of Son House; preacher, drinker, womaniser, prisoner and iconic blues man. Who better than to add a few telling words to the jam that closes the album. It's a fabulous, slightly dark mix of electric guitar, harp and drum, which verges toward a jazz riff.

The one track that really says everything about **Paul Lamb** is *'May Day Blues'*: written by both the boys with minimal production tweaks, it retains that raw natural sound which brings it 'live' and direct into your own living room. This sums up what is overall an excellent release and well worthy of your attention.

If the angels still watch over us they would perhaps ditch the strings and their harps would be pocket sized, inscribed with *'Marine Band'* or *'Dankeker'*

Graham Munn



# TOWER STUDIOS

Home of **Drum Mechanics** Chris Harvey

**T: 01386 555 655 M: 07899 880 876**

Rock School Exam Centre

- **Guitar, Bass, Saxophone & Keyboard Lessons**
  - **Vocal Coaching**
  - **Drum Lessons Including home visits**
  - **Fully furnished rehearsal rooms available for hire**
  - **Recording Studio Available**
  - **New Lighting Hire Service**
- all the above at competitive rates**



**[www.tower-studio.co.uk](http://www.tower-studio.co.uk)**

**E: [chrisharve.drums1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chrisharve.drums1@yahoo.co.uk)**

**UNIT 31b · PERSHORE TRADING EST · STATION RD · PERSHORE · WORCS WR10 2DD**

## 'Music in the Hall' - Kevin Brown St. Georges Hall, Bewdley | Friday 3rd June

Bewdley's quite superb 'Music in the Hall' series continues on Friday June 3rd with this month's headline act being **The Kevin Brown Trio** with support coming from **Ben & Zoe Spencer** plus youth act **Chawn Hill**.

Hailed by Mark Knopfler, **Kevin Brown** is a living legend and quite simply one of the UK's finest acoustic blues guitarist on the circuit today. From the main stage of Glastonbury to the beer joints of Texas and with 11 albums to his credit, Kevin has a growing number of loyal fans who not only love his touch and tone but have grown to admire his heartfelt songs, often delivered with a great sense of humour and dry northern wit. Music for the heart and feet, this is bound to prove perfect night out!

Brown's songs are based around classic blues structures but his lyrics invest them with a perspective that is defiantly British - sometimes specifically Lancastrian - and often highly personal. It's a formula that is both effective and convincing, Brown has travelled widely and even lived and worked in Austin, Texas for a while yet he never tries to sound like an American.



With his authentic Northern persona and immense technical ability as a guitarist Kevin has often been compared to the great Michael Chapman. This concert will heavily feature selections from the man's latest album "*Grit*", produced by a great friend of Bewdley and Music in the Hall namely **Neville Farmer**.

The album is about tenacity and not giving up, also about taking the road less travelled and not being afraid to take risks. The great

Andy Fairweather Low appears on the album and was moved to write thusly when he got home exhausted from the session; "*Fabulous job. It's not just about the day. It's about the whole thing and making it happen ...wanted to say thank you...a bag full of great memories.*"

Support act **Ben Smith & Zoe Spencer** hail from Stourbridge and their beautiful blend of folk & traditional music inevitably results in rave reviews whenever they appear in the UK or Europe.

So this is yet another classic night in the making at **St George's Hall**, Bewdley and once again you'd be mad to miss it. A Slap 5 Star Recommendation for sure!

## FCS Presents - Moose Blood Muncie Girls + Navajo Ace The Marris Bar, Worcester | Thursday 7th July

**Kerrang!** award nominated, **Moose Blood**, have announced they will be heading to the Marris Bar, Worcester this July, on their already packed Summer touring schedule. The performance is ahead of the release of their sublime upcoming album '*Blush*', which will be available worldwide on August 5th 2016 via Hopeless Records. Their brand new single '*Honey*' premiered as '**Rockest Record**' on the **BBC Radio 1 Rock Show** with **Daniel P. Carter** in April, ahead of a sold out UK tour.

Formed in August of 2012, Moose Blood - comprised of **Eddy Brewerton** (Vox/Guitars), **Mark Osborne** (guitars), **Glenn Harvey** (Drums) and **Kyle Todd** (Bass) hail from Canterbury, Kent. *Blush* is the band's follow up to their highly successful debut album '*I'll Keep You In Mind, From Time To Time*', which was met with high praise from fans and critics alike. The album charted #45 on the US Billboard Top Heatseekers chart.



Moose Blood, who are nominated in the **Best Underground Band** category in the **Alternative Press Awards**, are currently conducting the biggest singalongs ever to crowds across the UK on consistently sold out shows.

Tickets are onsale now: [wegottickets.com/faithfulcityshows](http://wegottickets.com/faithfulcityshows)

**APHRODITE**

**20% Discount** when you quote

**'SLAP'**

with our experienced hair stylist

Call **Jack 07572 436102**

**13 Trinity Street, Worcester WR1 2PW**

**HOGAN'S**

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

**SLAP**  
MAGAZINE

SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

**adverts@slapmag.co.uk**

# The Lamb & Flag

The Tything, Worcester

Every Monday

The FOLK SESSIONS

- 8.30pm

Every 1st & 3rd Sunday

Bah Chords

Open Mic - 8.00pm

With an eclectic mix of Musicians, Poets, Artists and Drinkers...



Help  
HARRY  
Help Others



Stockists of  
ecigwizrd  
electronic cigarettes | e-liquids

aspire  
LIFE CHANGING



PROFESSIONAL DIGITAL RECORDING STUDIO - £30/HOUR

AMAZING REHEARSAL SPACE - £12/HOUR

INSTRUMENT TUITION - £15 P 1/2 HOUR

RECORDING TUITION - £30/HOUR

BEWDLEY - WORCESTERSHIRE

TO BOOK - CALL 01299 400 658 AND QUOTE "SLAPMAG"  
FOR A 10% DISCOUNT



[www.loadstreetstudios.com](http://www.loadstreetstudios.com)

## King King + Dan Patlansky Guildhall, Gloucester | Wednesday 18th May

A while since my last visit to the great **Guildhall Gloucester**, but the first for **King King** on their seemingly endless UK tour. The venue was comfortably full as the diminutive Dan, currently promoting new album, *'Introvertigo'*, takes to the stage flanked by bassist, drummer and keyboard player.

Dan's opener is a full on rock-blues instrumental and it becomes immediately apparent that we are in the presence of an outstanding guitarist, as his gig worn Strat talks to us in language rarely found. *'Sonova Faith'* gives way to some funky bass and drum plus superb keyboards, building a platform for Dan to strut, with no time to *'Stop The Messin' Around'*. The heavy beat of the drums, brought up the *'Heartbeat'*, Dan slides around a little for this pulsating track, then the pace drops for a slow blues *'Still Wanna Be Your Man'*. The clock is ticking as we rock towards the close and it's another instrumental to take us out, *'My Chana'* and what a footprint it leaves. The guitar is hoisted up in front of Dan as fingers flicks up and down the long neck, then grasp the reverb spring trigger and finally he hangs it in the balance from the thick E string, suspended like a yo-yo, as the guitar howls its protest. Jimi H himself would appreciate this - we have heard something special this evening.

Time then for the crowning glory as King King, the multi-award-winning blues behemoths, make the stage theirs - good time guaranteed! *'Lose Control'* fires up with be-kilted Alan is already having fun, he knows that beyond the glare of lights, there's an appreciative floor full of fans, there to see blues royalty. *'Reaching For The Light'*, their current album, provides much of the material to sate the appetites. *'A Long History Of Love'* gives Bob his opportunity to make the Hammond fly, then Alan steps up to take over with his Fender, a toy in the big man's hands, expressive



playing reflected in his face. The powerfully emotive Frankie Miller song *'Jealousy'* powers out next, a definite high spot of their set for me. It's a *'Crazy'* evening and the chorus line is encouraged from the unseen crowd, but there's no doubting they are still here as the responses echo back with enthusiasm - we are all having a great time.

All good things though and so *'Stranger To Love'*, pours out, the volume slowly descending with just the strings whispering to us, the signature **King King** finale and no one drops any pins to spoil it; superb but more is demanded naturally and *'Let The Love In'* closes a great evening at Gloucester Guildhall.

**King King** justly wear their multiple crowns, unimpeachable rulers of the British Blues Kingdom for some years now. Let us not though forget Dan Patlansky the South African sorcerer, fingering the fret, meddling with the mix, bending and blending his chords to spellbinding effect.

**Dan Patlansky** undertakes his own tour, details at [www.danpatlansky.com](http://www.danpatlansky.com)

King King are hitting the UK festivals hard this summer; see [www.kingking.co.uk](http://www.kingking.co.uk)

Graham Munn

## Irene Rae

### The Old Bush Inn, Callow End | Sunday 15th May

A pleasant spring late afternoon with plenty of people relaxing around outside, enjoying a drink as **Irene Rae**, a Folk artist from Rutland, accompanied by **Stuart Dixon** on acoustic guitar started up. An engaging voice, tailor made for the folk genre, ebbs easily across the garden, an intense looking Stuart perched beside Irene. *'Mr Jones'* starts the day but Irene has plenty of her own material to air as the session evolves. *'Star'*, a bitter sweet memoir of a past relationship, and a thought provoking *'Save Our Soul'* are but two. You have to throw in a few markers for audience to tether to and Natalie Imbruglia pops in to lend a hand, that's *'Torn'* it!



Out in the sun kissed gardens the sounds are easily swept away on the breeze, but had her band been available I feel the gig would have created a deeper footprint: no matter though as it's a more than pleasant way of spending a little time. A bit risky bringing her *'Raincatcher'* into the set so early, but the clouds aren't threatening and with *'The Patience Of Angels'*, we remain sat in the soft sunshine.

The soft sun cooled into the early evening as Irene introduced more of her own music to mix, with a few covers that were aired in a style in keeping with the day. *'Skindeep Beauty'* and *'Able To Breathe'*, were both pulled from Irene's 2009 album *'End Of Nothing, Beginning Of Something'*.

Stuart, looking rather serious all afternoon, happens also to be the producer of the albums, in addition to being an accomplished musician. In summary if you wanted an easy listening lazy Sunday in the garden of a fine old Inn, this was the place to be.

Graham Munn



## Exhibitionism - Rolling Stones Saatchi Gallery, Chelsea London | until Sept '16

Small it ain't, this is a Big exhibition and a lot to swallow, but a truly satisfying meal awaits.

You enter through a multimedia display portal with video wall, snapshots and audio snips; this is an assault on the senses that covers over 50 years of **The Stones**. The 'outrageous behaviour', drug busts, Brian Jones' demise, rock concerts, infamous Altamont, and icon-ism. As Jagger puts it, "*they imprison us and then put us in museums*".



Step across the threshold into the Eden Grove flat, shared by the band in its earliest days. Even by the worst student standards this is grim though recognisable with high mildewed walls plus 3 grey, gritty beds in a room awash with dirty crocks, empty bottles and discarded clothes. The kitchen drainer is hidden beneath mountains of unwashed dishes and an overflowing dustbin sits behind a table where milk bottles contain exotic green cultures. A utility cupboard spews its contents of tins and bottles. Strangely, an ironing board stands smartly to attention with an impeccable iron, ignored in the corner. The sitting room with worn chairs, throwing up their horsehair and jute stuffing, is the temple for the radiogram, adorned with records and their covers; Muddy Waters plays whilst Chuck Berry sits above on the auto-changer. Maybe the TV 'Young Ones' was modelled on this, I know my son's bedroom was!



The Gaumont, Hanley - The Everly Brothers top the bill, with Bo Diddley, the Stones and special guest Little Richard. The first contract is signed, 6% of wholesale, manager Andrew Oldham, is too young to sign. A rapidly changing 'stock exchange' display, clicks over the years and gigs, '63 and '64 seem most prolific, hundreds of dates, then the band goes international. Keith's Harmony Meteor hangs on the wall next to his Harmony Jumbo 12 string, whilst an Ampeg SVT and SST sit with their manufacturers health warning - this combo can seriously damage your hearing! Olympic studios have been rebuilt, master tapes abound and behind an array of DIY mixers, sits a wall of iconic guitars, from Brian, Keith, Bill and Ron. Keith's personalised '57 Les Paul, colourfully customised, following similar kaleidoscopic experiments on his white boots, whilst on acid; it was quite a trip. An 18 year old Jagger, hung around the Alexis Korner band, he was pestering Cyril Davis the harmonica player for tips; '*I just want to learn to play harmonica*', and Cyril would reply, "*You just F'ing blow and you just F'ing suck it, that's how you F'ing learn. Now F*

**30 SLAP JUNE**



*off!*" It was Mick's first lesson. The Stones on film is introduced by Scorsese, grainy images of in flight orgies are a short take from '*Cocksucker Blues*', a full on sex, drugs, and rock & roll early tour film, which still awaits release. The art-house '*Sympathy For The Devil*' and '*Lets Spend the Night Together*', prove less alluring than the Beatles film efforts. '*Gimme Shelter*' and Altamont raises its head, but Scorsese's '*Shine A Light*' stands out, an altogether Bigger Bang.

A smorgasbord of not so small screen videos, fill your head as MTV images flash before your eyes, breaking through with an audio attack of familiar sounds - it abruptly ends explosively.

We next step into the design element of the Rolling Stone 'marketing suite'; album covers, stage sets and iconic images. Enter one John Pasche, a Royal College Of Art Student; he received the princely sum of £50 for his spartan lips and tongue motif, that have become so recognisable as the Stones logo. If only he had known what lay ahead, the inspiration was a Hindu Goddess and at the time Mick felt he could have done better! The '*Some Girls*' album, fascinates, the original design, with hair salon portholes, featured Farah Fawcett, Lucille Ball, Monroe, Minnelli and Welch. Permissions were not obtained, Monroe's estate threatened to sue, the design was changed and blank faces stared out from the cover.

Tour sets became ever more extravagant, setting standards that few could hope to follow, including *The Bridges To Babylon* tour which included an extending bridge to an 'island' for Jagger to cross. The bridge alone cost \$1m dollars to design and build which Jagger gave the go ahead for.

B&W film footage of David Bailey on a photo-shoot fascinates. Charlie Watts sits astride a donkey on a yet to be opened section of motorway - M25? Looking more akin to medieval monk than rockstar, as he moves along the carriageway - the result was '*Get Yer Ya Ya's Out*' and Charlie for once takes centre stage. Iconic pictures abound, a rolling commentary on band 'extras' over the years, Bobby Keyes, Billy Preston and many more though oddly lacking throughout as is material relating to Mick Taylor and even Bill Wyman.

I'm nearing the final section of the exhibition, a tour 'backstage room', brings me to the 'cinema' and a short film from the '*50 And Counting*' tour. For this we are provided with 3D specs and Keith Richards duly leaps off the stage to greet us, red paper petals float around and Jagger stalks the walkways. Ron Wood's craggy features diametrically oppose the fuller figure of Mick Taylor, who must be said looks less than comfortable. '*I Can't Get No Satisfaction*' - well maybe Mick can't, but it's a storming finale to an outstanding exhibition and I stay for a second viewing with satisfaction guaranteed.

Worth the ticket price? Absolutely! It may have omissions but it's a fantastic look at the world's most iconic and enduring band. Give yourself at least 2 hours, I was there for over 4 and still wanted more.

Graham Munn

# Aramantus

Musical genres are strange creatures. Some bands stick rigidly to them, fearing that even the occasional excursion outside the accepted parameters into unknown territory could cost them their hard-won fan base. Other bands seem blissfully unaware that the parameters even exist.

Welcome to the World of **Aramantus**...

Newcomers to this band, who've never experienced their music before, may be briefly disorientated by the flagrant genre hopping of this very fine, and very young band – there's Hard Rock, there's Metal, there's Speed, great slabs of Funk, a bit of Djent here and there.

Does this sound a bit like a dog's breakfast? Well it's not, it's fresh, it's irreverent, it's startling and it's beautifully executed.

We kick off with two newish tracks, firstly "Enamira" which sets out the band's stall early - frequent time changes, crisp rock giving way to a funkier backdrop over which the twin guitars of Jake Elwell and Elijah Storer float lead lines based on a middle Eastern scale. "Actor VII" is the most percussive track on the EP, with vocalist **Nyah Ifill** growling and spitting out the lyric.

As well as being female-fronted, this band has women in the engine room, too and the rhythm section of **Cici Powell-Melkonian** on bass and **Alice Bates** on drums comes sharply to the fore on what I consider to be the EP's standout track, "Funked Up".

The track starts with a bass line so dirty, you want to wipe its face with a washcloth. It morphs into a staccato main section, with the lyrics veering towards a fast Rap delivery. Then suddenly it stops dead, the bass line cranks up again, having definitely not cleaned up its act, and Storer's precise and decidedly retro wah-wah section fades the track out. Rock isn't supposed to sound like this, let alone metal. Do they care? Not really.



A rework of one of the band's oldest tracks and live favourite "Broken Trust" closes the work, a galloping beat with the guitars chattering and fizzing under the surface until they break through spectacularly two thirds of the way through. A stomping finish.

Now here comes the moan. There are four tracks on this debut CD, which for long term Aramantus lovers is a bit like being at a cocktail party eating delicious smoked salmon canapés, which however lovely they taste, are no substitute for the damned great steak you wish you were eating...

A really outstanding debut – but will you make the next one an album, guys?

"Aramantus" is out now from [www.aramantus.bigcartel.com](http://www.aramantus.bigcartel.com)

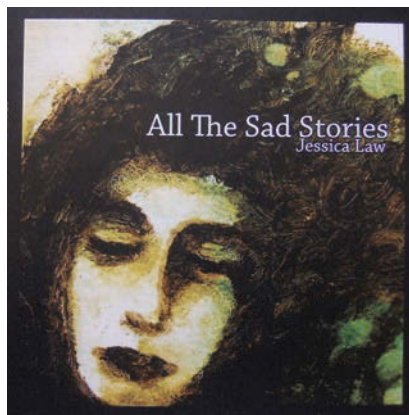
Geoffrey Head

## Jessica Law | All The Sad Stories

**Jessica Law** is an Oxford based singer-songwriter who, along with her backing band, **The Outlaws**, create a unique take on the folk genre, incorporating waltz like rhythms, deftly strummed mandolin, together with mournful strings, intoxicating and swooping vocals, all topped with a theatrical dark flourish.

*All The Sad Stories* is Jessica's fourth six track EP to date, but the first be nudged in my direction. The first spin left my mind swimming and searching in vain for comparisons; plucked mandolin gives way to deep moving cello, whilst Jessica's impressive vocal range suggests she'd be more than capable of some kind of musical theatre. Lyrically there's a macabre tilt which is simultaneously sinister and seductive. The opener 'Death Insurance' sets the mood with Jessica emoting from beyond the grave over a delicious combination of plucked mandolin and the sonorous moan of cello; a two and half minute blackened tale that startles and intrigues in equal measure.

'Polite' follows, shaken percussion and a throbbing bass combine to create a waltz like rhythm, mandolin and cello pirouette and come apart whilst Jessica again allows her vocals to swoop and soar (suggesting a classical or operatic influence) as



she reveals more of that jaw dropping range. The title track 'All The Sad Stories' opens with a delicately plucked line on the mandolin, before a piano swells the sound around Law's floating vocal creating a gorgeous dream like state. 'No Damage' grows from humble beginnings, based around that familiar waltz like rhythm, to become a full bodied affair complete with a resonator twang complimenting the already dramatic, heady mix of cello, piano and mandolin.

The invention continues throughout the EP's duration, with penultimate track 'Nice vs Kind' really standing out, beginning with an aching and emotional lead from Jessica as she sings of heartache and being taken for granted. A lonesome strummed mandolin holds sway, before a sudden change of direction as the song develops into a glorious, lighthearted doo-wop inspired number, with infectious harmonies and a delightful finger clicking rhythm: heartache has never sounded so contagious.

*All The Sad Stories* is one of those wonderfully off the wall, unique releases, that are nigh on impossible to describe and

even harder to ignore. Jessica's intriguing arrangements, clever use of instrumentation and her startling vocal range combine to form a compelling and often dramatic affair, urging the listener to submerge into Law's murky world of deathly shadows, broken hearts and sin. [www.jessicalaw.bandcamp.com](http://www.jessicalaw.bandcamp.com)

Will Munn

## The Humdrum Express Q & A

With new album *'The Day My Career Died'* imminent - see review on next page - and launch night in support, we thought it was high time Slap caught up with **Ian Passey**, the man that is **The Humdrum Express**, to quiz him on all things musical and more. Here dear reader are the results...

**1) Elusive Enigma, Lunchtime Legend, Complicated Conundrum???** Tell us a bit about your musical past...

*I'm not sure if many of your readers will remember the 90's (for various reasons!) but I started out playing guitar with my best mates in a band called Smedley. I suppose it would be best described as jangly-ish indie pop, it's unlikely to be remembered too fondly by many!*

*After a year spent in Australia, I returned to form a power-pop three piece, Jackpot. We got quite popular for a couple of years, with memorable headline shows at The Northwick and regular gigs on the Birmingham scene.*

*Britpop was in full swing by then of course, and it was a great time to be playing in bands.*

*I then went on to front another group, Swagger, who produced some very interesting work before bowing out at The Water Rats in Kings Cross.*

**2) What led from band life to solo stardom and the formation of The Humdrum Express?**

*To be honest, I packed it in for a while. I lost a bit of interest and, with The Baggies (that's West Bromwich Albion for non footy fans. Ed) doing well under Gary Megson, I spent a lot more of my time going to football.*

*Looking back, I think the first Streets album was a pretty big influence on my return to writing; simple layered tracks with lyrics very much to the fore. I sold my much loved Rickenbacker to fund the purchase of some basic home recording equipment and it slowly started taking shape. I produced an album called 'All Aboard' and eventually started gigging again.*

*I never really felt comfortable using backing tracks live so I adapted the songs to suit acoustic guitar.*

**3) 10 years or so for Humdrum and The Day My Career Died is your 5th album, it's obviously working for you and your growing fan base; how are things developing and what ambitions do you have... if any?**

*For this album, and the last one, I've been recording with a very talented mate, Mick Lown. It's been a massive learning curve for both of us, but great fun. The finished results are fantastic and I can't wait to get started on our next project!*

*I've spent a lot of time developing the live performance too; I view the interaction between songs as almost as important as the songs themselves.*

*As far as ambitions go, I just like to work with a quiet determination and see how things evolve. The good thing about a slow, steady ascent is the fact you're not yet on the way down!*



**4) Talking of developments, radio DJ's seem to be tuning into your efforts more and more, I'm especially thinking of Steve Lamacq on BBC 6Radio who is a particular fan. Are you ready for the next step... Albert Hall etc?**

*The airplay from Lammo, in particular, has been fantastic. When I think of all the bands he's introduced me to over the years on his shows, I can't help but feel both humbled and thrilled by his comments and support.*

*I'm not really sure about progression and the next step...*

*I suppose you've got to take the little bits of praise when they come your way and enjoy what you're doing. It wasn't that long ago I was described in a review as "excruciating". I've since encountered the writer and he was wearing crocs... Suddenly, his opinion on anything didn't seem remotely important anymore!*

**5) You come from a similar exalted lineage of National Treasure's such as John Cooper Clarke (Doc!), Billy Bragg and Half Man Half Biscuit, and these are I would have thought influences on your good self? How do you see your place in the Grand Scheme and Rock's Pantheon? Also please tell us about you other influences whether musical, literary, comedy etc...**

*All three of those have been an influence at some point - does it tell?!! Nigel Blackwell and JCC are possibly the only artists I can think of who are still consistently writing new material on a par, or better, than the work they're best known for. So many of my other former heroes have long since stopped producing stuff I can relate to.*

*There's still plenty to enthuse about of course - Courtney Barnett's album has been a particular favourite from the past year or so and I'm always hugely excited when Billy Childish releases something new. On a local level we're pretty well blessed too, certainly the bands I have the pleasure of gigging with anyway!*

*I don't watch much TV these days, but I was really inspired by the work of both Clement & La Frenais, and Galton & Simpson.*

*The bitter-sweet balance of lovable, flawed characters, sharp wit and social documentation is something I've always attempted to emulate. I'll get there in the end..!*

*Cheers for your time Ian and all the best from us at Slap for the new album - see you at The Boars!*

*'The Day My Career Died' is available to buy from [www.thehumdrumexpress.com](http://www.thehumdrumexpress.com) or download from the usual online haunts.*

*Words: Dick Tater Images: Top - Mark Hoy Middle - Auther Passey*

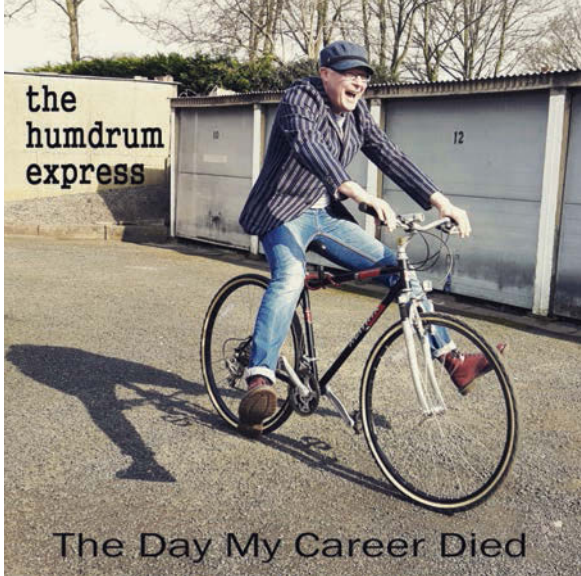




# The Humdrum Express

## The Day My Career Died

Maybe it's because I'm getting older or more cynical, maybe I share the same sarcastic dry wit, but whatever it is, listening to **The Humdrum Express** I find myself not only contently nodding away, but smirking to myself as singer-songwriter Ian Passey targets another one of society's ills, putting the world to right with a caustic word and an acoustic strum. Is it really any wonder that the likes of **6 Music's Steve Lamacq** champions the Humdrum cause; here's a barbed-wire poet not afraid to wrap his opinions with an infectious melody and unleash them for all to hear.



'*The Day My Career Died*' is Ian's fifth album under the Humdrum banner in a about a decade, with recent singles '*Festival At Home*', '*Cryptic Self Pity*' and '*Double Edged Swords*' all finding their way onto 6 Music's radar. On the live front busy boy Ian has supported the likes of **Ian McCulloch**, **Half Man Half Biscuit**, **Miles Hunt** and like minded words warrior **Dr John Cooper Clarke**, helping to spread Passey's social critique to an ever widening audience.

The disc opens with the aforementioned '*Double Edged Swords*', a glorious four minute mood setter that see's Ian take aim at among other things, supermarket bag packers, ebay fashion tips, Chubby Brown fans and Jools Holland. Armed with an acoustic guitar and a rudimentary beat, Passey's deadpan delivery, lyrical nous, winning way with melody and a damn fine hook urge the need for repeat spins (and perhaps even a sing-a-long), revealing more barbed wire truisms along the way. '*Cryptic Self Pity*' changes direction with the guitar momentarily pushed to one side for an unexpected trip into electronica and spoken word, as Passey waxes lyrical about a Tony Pulis managed Stoke, sneaking a last minute winner, Movember and hipster beards, false emotional twitter celebrity posts, Hall And Oates and beyond all topped with a rousing football stand like chorus proving that poetry can be for everyone.

Elsewhere the infectious, sing-a-long acoustic punk strum of '*Copy Cats*' speaks directly to me lambasting the folk who wear Ramones T-shirts as a brand (instead of people like you or I, who have actually heard the band, own the record and can name the members without looking down at said garment), as well as those 'individuals' who want to stand out by copying everyone else ('*sorry love but we've seen it all before*'). '*End Of Part One*' in the live arena (or the local if you prefer) is a rapid fire spoken word piece, a two minute bombardment of product placement and slogans, but on CD the track is further enhanced with a brisk, repetitive drumbeat and a few choice backing hollers creating Passey's first rap track (and it has more to say than your average Kanye number). '*Festival At Home*' is a delicious, dry witted look at TV festival coverage, the long weekend wrist-banded bore and

recreating the event in the comfort of your own home. A contagious melody, hook-laden chorus and wordless sing-a-long refrain help banish the blues of missing out on that elusive ticket to Glastonbury (or wherever).

We're also served up a witty tale concerning the world of tennis and a biting look at the austerity and over spending, before Ian delivers a darker, more sombre affair to close: *Catch A Fallen Star* looks at the Yew Tree witch hunts, persecution and resultant fall from grace despite innocence, with a well-written and thought provoking lyric plus moody croon showcasing another side to Passey's usual tongue in cheek demeanour, but proving beyond doubt that his penmanship and way with words is second to none.

**Ian Passey** sums up the human condition and absurdity of life on '*The Day My Career Died*' with a collection of infectious hooks, tongue in cheek tirades and biting social critiques, all delivered with clever and provocative, lyrical couplings and a trusted battered acoustic.

The album is available at all good retailers and selected hardware stores..probably. [www.thehumdrumexpress.com](http://www.thehumdrumexpress.com)

*Will Munn*

# Music City

By musicians for musicians



### Opening Hours

Mon - Fri-10am-5pm

Sat-9.30am-5.30pm



16 Queen Street Worcester

01905 26600

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

# Kris Dollimore

Prince of Wales, Ledbury | Sunday 1st May

The return of **Kris** to **The Prince of Wales**? There was no way I was not going to be in attendance! If I were to sum it up succinctly (not my style!) it would be - quality artist, quality pub, quality beer, appreciative crowd - what's not to like?

No Adam Ant or Del Amitri here, this is blues and it's outstandingly good. Brilliant musicianship and made to measure voice, signature **Kris Dollimore**, ready to spellbind the gathering clientèle. A few new faces to join the many friends and a Damned T shirt, proudly sported by an old fan, (not so old as me, I have to add). 'Poor Boy', opens the proceedings and fingers race over the frets as Kris picks his way across a hard life on the road. That road leads him to the home of Blind Willy Johnson to discover 'The Soul Of A Man', soulfully revealed by the coffee grind vocals.

Kris claims 'Last Dance' as his only upbeat 'love song' in the set; the riff is lifted from Rory Gallagher's version of 'The Crow Flies' but the lyrics are all home grown. RG's influence is instrumental in an old Leadbelly song 'Out On The Western Plains', with a hi-yi-yippy also regularly performed here by a certain Mr Woosey, both obviously and rightly so Rory fans. The blues'd up, gritty gospel of 'Testify', harkens back to Kris's days with The Damned - down on your knees in respectful homage - superb.

Pulled straight from his current album 'All Grown Up' is the title track, a destiny that brings him to the blues? The finger work across the acoustic guitar is impeccable, a tinge of gruffness in the voice, perfection, maybe some sand from 'Sahara Blues' has lodged in the throat - a souvenir of Las Vegas.



A break to wash away that grit and we're back staring at 'Judgement Day', The Hellhound is on Kris's tail. Best lose the scent and 'Wade In The Water', not the clean, spiritual waters found by Eva, these are the murky mosquito infested morass of a swampy gorge, its going to bite! the promised land lies on the other side.

Those Vegas sands are blowing back across the prairie, straight across and into the saloon where whiskey and ruin awaits as the 'Gamblin' Bar Room Blues' strikes. It was with great reluctance that it was time for me to head toward the station; this is the tough part of my evenings at the Prince, crossing the tracks, to cut short my stay. The consolation is of course, an outstandingly good gig from **Kris Dollimore** and the thought in mind that he will soon be back somewhere local for more of the same thankfully. I can only urge any of you doubters to go and listen as you will not leave without an album or two.

Graham Munn



The Ginger Pig  
Café & Bistro  
**01905 338913**

9 Copenhagen Street, Worcester WR1 2HB

## Upcoming Events

10th June **Open Secrets**

1st July **Duo Montparnasse**

15th July **Trio Rosbif**

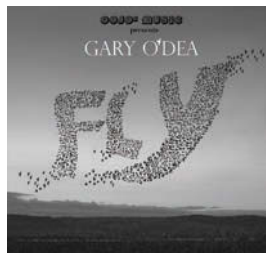
2nd Sept **Brooks Williams**

● Available for Private Hire

Seasonal, Fresh and Local Food

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

GOJO MUSIC Presents



[www.gojo-music.co.uk](http://www.gojo-music.co.uk)  
@gojomusic1  
gaza@gojo-music.co.uk

'a variety of songs and arrangements in styles showing he has a few strings to his bow... there's more to Gary O'Dea than a voice and a guitar'  
LOUNDER THAN WAR

'Expressive and skilful'  
GAVIN MARTIN - DAILY MIRROR\*\*\*\*

Available NOW via bandcamp

[garyodea-gojomusic.bandcamp.com](http://garyodea-gojomusic.bandcamp.com)  
[www.facebook.com/GaryODeaGojoMusic/](http://www.facebook.com/GaryODeaGojoMusic/)

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

**SLAP**  
MAGAZINE

SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

[adverts@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:adverts@slapmag.co.uk)

# The Leylines

## Along The Old Straight Track

The **Leylines** are no strangers to our area and they have found new fans everywhere they've played. Now their long awaited album has been launched and one came tumbling through my letterbox to become subject of this review. Now, many have likened this band to their admitted heroes The Levellers and much as I can appreciate their standing, I am going to quietly admit to preferring the Leylines and this recording only confirms that preference.

It opens with the ticking beat of *'My Own Worst Enemy'* and blasts through to, oddly enough, *'For Queen And Country'*. The 11 tracks herein show a diversity of material firmly tethered by the lead vocals of **Steve Mitchell** plus an always tight band, that never fail to impress. Alongside Steve then are Hannah on fiddle, Matt on acoustic guitar, Pete on bass, and Dave on drums. The introspective lyrics of the first track are lifted to a much jollier level with *'Sat In A Field'*, which has become an established favourite for fans. This song is uplifting, festival music and guaranteed to get folk dancing and happily retains the merriment of live renditions in this recording, with Hannah's fiddle



coming on strong as the party continues. Most of this album will bring familiar sounds to the ears and *'Let It Go'* is one of those, as the band pick up the pace, but *'Sorry My Friends'* it's time for more dancing.

*'Save Your Soul'* opens slowly, a soulful and beautiful ballad that finds a burst of energy that so typifies The Leylines; with the brakes applied to ease down and close, it's simply superb. The whole album is nicely balanced, a great substitute for their live show and of course they couldn't omit the frenetically paced *'Run For Cover'*, which carries a government warning; a fantastic fat burner of a song and a great gig favourite. Indeed the album contains political messages in many of the lyrics, alongside life experiences, not least in the closing *'For Queen And Country'*, which reflects Steve's military past. Lyrically thought provoking songs that also happen to be structured around some great Celtic rhythms. Stir that into the punk'n'rock mix and this is a recipe for a very tasty treat

Unlike Alfred Watkins similarly titled book, this work is not the straight and true path but a helter-skelter musical maelstrom. Go out and get a copy as this is folk rock at its finest.

Best track to dance to? Tough one but *'Sorry My Friends'* as I can manage the pace, whereas *'Run For Cover'* requires alcohol to fuel the frenzy! It's not an easy album to pull out a favourite track, but the anthemic *'For Queen And Country'* is hard to resist as top candidate. The whole band are outstanding throughout this album, the instrumentation is distinctive and lyrics so full of poignancy.

I'm not biased, but great band - great music - great album says it for me.

*Will Munn*

# Big Joe Pleasure

Seems a while since this went into the pipeline, but a copy dropped into my letterbox a few days ago, from the king of cool swing, **Mark Scrivens**, aka **King Pleasure of The Biscuit Boys** fame. This album is somewhat different being billed as *'With The British All Stars Boogie & Blues Band'* and sees Mark knocking on doors, calling on past band members in addition to a few other Midlands based muso's. The result is an R&B swing album with some interesting variations, one even seems to be hip hop, but more of that later.

Apart from the 'in house' Biscuit Boys, guests include **Ricky Cool**, **Danny McCormack**, **Big Boy Bloater** and many more. Ricky pops up in the intro for KP's *'Boogie & Blues'*, carrying a mean little harp as KP croons in his own inimitable way, to a lovely rhythm, before Ricky steps in; get out those dancing shoes as you'll find it hard to stay still. *'Big Man'*, takes a swing toward a self portrait, with trumpet that stands out.

Needless to say this swollen band of brothers, brings a massive drive from the brass section, especially the omnipresent tenor sax of **John Bartrum**. Also tucked into the mix is **Danny McCormack** tackling Hammond organ and the piano of **Matt Foundling**. Now



for something different as the distinctly Latin rhythms that open *'Don't Say Goodbye'* slinks along seductively as **Leslie Turner** lures us in with her violin. Distant sirens distract as we slip back out into the dark, the shiver you feel reminds one of *'Mack The Knife'*, but no it's *'Michael Moriarty'* and he has a Goldfinger pointing toward the brightly lit exit.

A jocular accordion then, in the pressing hands of **Phil Bond** adding a Gallic flavour to this homage to hops; *'King Of Beers'* - a vintage brew indeed taking a tongue in cheek bow - all 'ale to the king.

Hammond, piano and a deep throated double bass introduce a superb 50's style cool, blues funk and we just can't resist *'Wetting My Lips And Pray'*. For me these 3 tracks in the core of this album, make it worthwhile in itself, then you catch a bout of, *'McGeever's Fever'* and there's no cure - you're smitten. It's an instrumental that blows in the sands of the Arabian desert, Big Boy Bloater leads the caravan toward the coast - surf's out, Dicky Dale is playing on desert island discs - keep that grit away from the stylus!

What you get with this album is some top class 'big band' musicianship, KP's warm, caramel smooth voice, swing rhythms and some stand out soli. If you like R&B you'll like this, it all comes from the pen of **Mark Scrivens**, the man that is undoubtedly **King Pleasure**. There are many stand-out tracks on this excellent album but get your own copy, I'm keeping mine!

*Graham Munn*

## Surprise Attacks #45

### Bivouac, Bedford Falls, Navajo Ace & Trivial Dispute The Firefly, Worcester | Thursday June 17th

Back in the '90s, in the wake of Nirvana's explosion and the ongoing popularity of American Hardcore, there came a slew of UK bands under that influence. Mostly were largely forgettable but one band hit me from the opening chords of their first ep. They were from Derby and called **Bivouac**. Not only did they seem to wear their influences on their sleeve but in **Paul Yeadon** they had a songwriter of genuine talent and capable of beating the Yanks at their own game. As they garnered music press attention and gigged furiously I saw them multiple times and on each occasion envious of the beautiful chiming guitar sound he wrenched out of his amp. A couple more eps and a debut album - *'Tuber'* - showed a band definitely on the up; beautifully crafted



songs that straddled melancholic minor chords with a punkier, heavier attack. I was a total fanboy and tried to rip them off in my own band, without much success I hasten to add. The majors were circulating and Geffen were the ones who managed to get their signatures. It wasn't a harmonious relationship and after a solid if not spectacular album they disappeared from view. Paul then formed **The Wireless Stores**, which had a similar sound but played few and far between as his rising career as a studio engineer took off. In the era of Facebook we exchanged the odd message and he was kind enough to send unreleased demos of songs he had worked on. I always said if Bivouac ever reformed could I put them on in Worcester and now they have. The new 7", *'Sweet Heart Deal'* is already getting stellar reviews and as part of their first tranche of dates they play **Surprise Attacks** on June 17th at The Firefly. I am very happy. Not least because we have **Bedford Falls** from Wales, our very own **Navajo Ace** and Brum's **Trivial Dispute** completing the night. Here's to hearing that guitar once again.

Words by Neilius Van Coxius

## Raw Comedy!

### Evesham Arts Centre | Friday 24th June

Amy Howerska



An exciting and hilarious night in prospect once again, as **Evesham Arts Centre** foyer plays host to another great value **Raw Comedy night**. Raw because these events bring a huge variety of fresh comedy styles to the stage, giving these rising acts a 10-15 minute slot to try out material and hone their comedic skills. This brings an extra edginess to proceedings and helps bring out the best performances from these soon-to-be greats.

Heading the June line-up is Welsh live-wire and tv regular, **Amy Howerska**, delivering a gutsy set with wickedly accurate timing. Amy has worked as promo writer for USA networks on shows such as *House* and *Burn Notice*; more recently she was a writer on ITV's *Viral Tap*, and is a regular commissioned contributor to *Huffington Post*.

Also on the bill will be player of parodies and



Rob Coleman

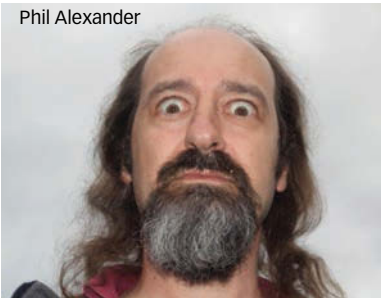
surreal comic songs "**Philfy**" **Phil Alexander**, Northern Irish master of laid back, sarcastic, dry wit **Andy Gleeks**, **Alex Love** who has had a well-received Edinburgh stand-up, curly Kingswinford lo-fi-whimsy comic **Danny James Clive** and **Haran X**, self-professed "Alternative pseudo-intellectual and pretentious amateur comedian based in London."

The night's MC will be **Rob Coleman**, a master of the one-liner with a background in politics, ocean-rowing & band management.

Tickets £6 on the door, £5 in advance (£4 concessions) from Evesham Almonry or [eveshamartscentre.co.uk](http://eveshamartscentre.co.uk). The show starts at 8pm with strong language likely, so minimum entry age is 16.

Andy Gleeks

Phil Alexander



*"There's a new place in town!"*

# Worley's The Swan

*...In June*

**2nd The Ferrets**

**3rd The Fred Skidmore  
Organ Trio**

**4th Rattle Snake Jake**

**5th Dave Onions**

**9th TBC**

**10th Chicago Bytes**

**11th TBC**

**16th TBC**

**17th Suzi & the  
Backbeats**

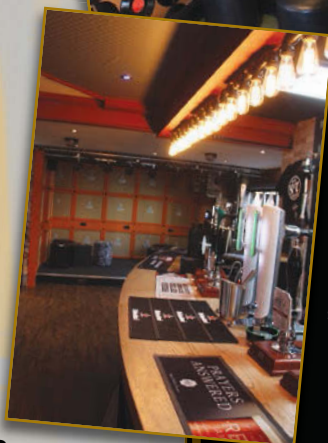
**18th The Executives**

**23rd The Mob**

**24th The Black Heart Angels**

**25th The Bobcats**

*Run by Music Lovers for Music Lovers*



**MUSIC VENUE  
& FREE HOUSE  
WITH TOP NOTCH  
FACILITIES**

**Folk/Jazz/Bands  
Acoustic Nights**

**Well Stocked Bar**

**6 Real Ales**

**(Top Rated from CAMRA)**

**22 bespoke Gins**

**10 Malt whiskies**

**7 types of Jack Daniels**

**Folk Night**

**Every Monday evening**

**special offers on all 6 real ales**

**and some free grub !!**

**All musicians & listeners welcome**

**Guitar Shop  
and Music Bar  
all under one roof!**

**Tel: 01299 877832**

[www.facebook.com/worleysswan](http://www.facebook.com/worleysswan)

[www.theswanstourport.com](http://www.theswanstourport.com)

*Coming Soon...*

**Mediterranean Bistro**

**Record Shop & Art Gallery**

**Back Room 300 Capacity Venue**

**56 High Street, Stourport-on-Severn DY13 8BX**

# Jethro - '40 Years The Joker

Evesham Arts Centre Thursday 16th & Friday 17th June



Two nights at Evesham Arts Centre for this West Country comedic legend - such is the enduring popularity of this evergreen performer that the dates will sell out as ever!

The PR blurb describes the arrival of Jethro perfectly as "two nights of memorable nonsense, offering the public a glimpse at the circus lurking deep within the mind of probably the greatest comic storyteller ever to grace the stage. Jethro beguiles and befuddles his audience with the endless stream of irreverent twaddle that has created a comedy genius."

What else is there to say of a man who has sold over 4 million DVDs and still sells a quarter of a million tickets every year - go see this great comic storyteller for yourself is the answer.

# Wild Willy Barrett's `French Connection

Evesham Arts Centre | Saturday 11th June

Happily over recent times it seems as if **Wild Willy Barrett** and **John Otway** are playing somewhere on the circuit either together or doin' their own thang. Here at **Evesham Arts Centre Wild Willy** is back with friends to delight and entertain with their quirky mix of French, Irish & English music and dry humour.

WWB takes to the stage together with charismatic French chanteuse **Aurora Colson**, cellist **Mary Holland** plus Irish pipes and whistle player **John Devine**, whose collective outstanding musicianship is complemented perfectly by the multi-instrumental talents of our Willie.



As this line-up suggests they will transport the crowd from a cafe in Paris, via a hoooley in Dublin, to a night out in New Orleans with rip-roaring fiddle and banjo – this band does it all! This truly is a fabulous show suitable for all ages and carries the **Slap Seal Of Recommendation**, for both returnees and newcomers alike.

Tickets are on sale now - advance price £10 - from Evesham Almonry, 01386 446944 and [www.EveshamArtsCentre.co.uk](http://www.EveshamArtsCentre.co.uk) Tickets will be £12 at the door on the night!

Your local arts venue

# Evesham ARTS CENTRE

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

eveshamarts



## WILD WILLY BARRETT'S FRENCH CONNECTION



**SAT 11 JUNE : 7.30pm**

**Tickets: £10 adv/£12 door**

## COMING SOON . . .

### RAW COMEDY

**Fri 24 June : 8pm**

RAW with laughter in the foyer with MC Rob Coleman and TV's Amy Howerska!

**Tickets: £6/£5/£4**



### FOLK IN THE FOYER:

**GREEN DIESEL**

**Sat 28 Jul : 8pm**

**Tickets: £10/£9**



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

**The Almonry TIC - 01386 446944**

## **A Fistful Of Spookies (UK)** **St Peter's Church, Malvern | Friday 17th June**

**North Malvern Arts Co-operative** are proud to present, in the words of none other than Mike Harding, "one of the funniest bands ever". **A Fistful Of Spookies** have also been described as "heartbreaking and hilarious" plus "awesome fun and moving too!" so you get the drift, but here in their own wonderful words is their own description:



From thousand year old Georgian log-carrying songs to sensational new arrangements of Tom Waits, Leonard Cohen, The Beach Boys & brand newbies by **Spookmeister Stephen Taberner**, guaranteed to woo, charm, cheer & delight. **A Fistful of Spookies (UK)** were abandoned to their own appliances when festival hits The Spooky Men's Chorale retreated to Australia after their sell-out UK Tour. Like a tide-mark in the enamel bath of song, this collection of UK Spooks keep alive the flame of Spookiness in Britain. They reprise classics from the Spooky canon of testosterone-fuelled tunes and tomfoolery. Have you got your Thing with you? Would you like the Sweetest Kick In The Heart? And do you want to be in our Club (but definitely not our Men's Group)? A cappella but not as we know it.

[www.wegotickets.com/event/356058](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/356058)

## **Bromyard Folk Festival** **Friday 9th - Sunday 11th September**

Another well cherished and must-go event in our packed Festival calendar is the venerable **Bromyard Folk Festival**, located as the name suggests in the wonderful market town of Bromyard in Welsh Border country. Whilst the main festival site is based at **Bromyard Town Football Club**, the many excellent pubs in the town play host to sing-aound sessions and the like all weekend.

Indeed Bromyard boasts over 172 hours of traditional music and dance and this years they expect to attract record numbers yet again. Tickets are therefore selling fast especially for headline acts such as **Oysterband** (Saturday) and **Gordie McKeeman** and his **Rhythm Boys** from Canada (Friday). Other acts heading the bill include **Rusty Shackie**, **'The Young'uns'**, **Les Barker**, **Chris Sherburn & Denny Bartley**, **Granny's Attic**, **Keith Donnelly**, **Inlay** and **Winter Wilson**.



Oysterband

You can see then that booking early is imperative so please see links and ticket outlet details below to make sure you join in the **Bromyard Folk Festival Fun**. [www.bromyard-folk-festival.org.uk](http://www.bromyard-folk-festival.org.uk) or The Courtyard, Hereford on 01432 340555

**FOLK MUSIC SONG AND DANCE FOR ALL**

# *bff* **Bromyard** **FOLK festival**

**9th-11th**  
**September 2016**



**Jez Lowe • Rusty Shackie • The Young'uns • Les Barker**  
**Keith Donnelly • Chris Sherburn and Denny Bartley + more...**

Some of the most outstanding local, national and international traditional folk festival musicians performing in concert, ceilidhs and displays.

Call the Box Office: 01432 340555 [www.bromyardfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.bromyardfolkfestival.co.uk)

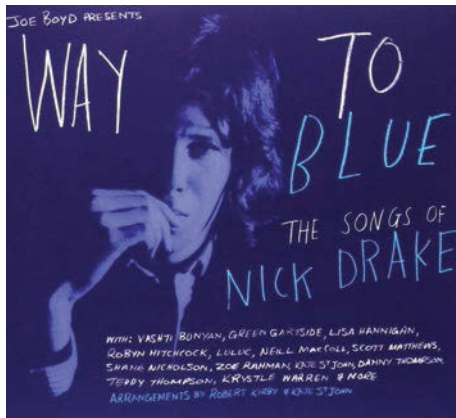
**DISCOVER TRADITIONAL FOLK**

## Way To Blue: The Songs of Nick Drake Symphony Hall, Birmingham | Thursday 12th May

This year **Birmingham Symphony Hall** celebrates its 25th year with a series of concerts, including The Imagined Isle which showcases the vibrancy and diversity of Britain's contemporary folk scene. **Way To Blue: The Music Of Nick Drake** is one of these; Drake who for uninitiates hailed from Tanworth-in-Arden, Warks and has posthumously proved to be one of our most enduring and loved singer-songwriters.

What is immediately apparent at the splendid Symphony Hall is the respectful air of the proceedings: in spite of the assembled band of some 22+ musicians (replete with house band and strings executing **Robert Kirby's** original orchestrations) it is not blighted by cloudy ego nor is it uncertain or disingenuous, rather the lens of intention is collectively focused upon the inspired rays of Drake's compositions to burn upon a fresh canvas that is in parts faithful recreation and sincerely understated interpretation, fitting for this man's slim yet powerfully influential output. This may be in part due to the reverence of Drake, and the curation of the event by his one time producer, **Joe Boyd**. One can't help but feel the faithful renditions of Nick's cluster chord acoustic parts by **Ewan MacColl's** son **Neil**, holds this all together so sublimely.

Early highlights include **Green Gartside** with a lush rendition of



'Fruit Tree' and **Vashni Bunyan's** airy whisper for a fragile rendition of 'Thoughts of Mary Jane'. Latterly, **Sam Lee** performs a spellbinding turn on 'Cello Song' with throat singing and backwards guitar soundscape no less, whilst **Iron & Wine's Sam Beam** performs a duet of 'Time Has Told Me' with **Olivia Chaney**, choosing not to ape and together they trade verses, developing a lovely offset harmony to this country tinged swing. Indeed to see **The Frames' Glen Hansard** perform his take on 'River Man' is worth the price of admission alone. Here, as the five/four metre drifts and shifts eloquently, house band pianist **Zoe Rahman** places understated chords upon the stream.

At each bend of verse we meet the strings (which I for one never thought I would hear live), sombre and comforting they lull us further into the depths of the unfolding tale, without cadence resolution. Zoe adds a tiny shiver of trills, which become a crystalline solo all at once : as shimmering silver trail upon the senses, it would render tears from the driest of ducts and is simply gorgeous.

With **Jon Thorne** on stand-up bass - deputising for the unfortunately ill but recovering **Danny Thompson** - plus excellent contributions from the likes of **Kami Thompson** (Richard and Linda's daughter) and **James Walbourne**, collectively known as **The Rails**, the whole evening is sewed together with a 22 member strong rendition of 'Voice From The Mountain' and there is I would venture not a dry eye in the house when the final standing ovation closes this two part evening in fitting style.

Words by Craigus Barry

N.B. This is an edit of a piece by Craigus which will be published in full on his blog here: [swallowthemind.tumblr.com](http://swallowthemind.tumblr.com)

## Surprise Attacks No. 44 - Petrol Girls Joliette, The Brackish, Fetus Christ Firefly, Worcester | Thursday 9th June

Bristling with energy, blazingly intelligent and staunchly feminist, London's **Petrol Girls** will bring their peerless blast of political hardcore punk back to the **Firefly** on Thursday 9th June. Named after a semi-legendary group of molotov cocktail-wielding female Parisian revolutionaries - "Les Petroleuses" - both their music and attitude is incendiary, with influences ranging from Bikini Kill, The Slits and Refused. There's some that bemoan the apathy of the youth. That they lack fire, edge or the ability to focus coherent outrage at the howling clusterfuck that is the contemporary body politic. **Petrol Girls** set this record firmly straight. The roof was firmly blown right off last time this band played in Worcester. Astonishing both live and on tape - you do not want miss this band.



Main support comes from Mexican post hardcore exponents **Joliette**. Intense, dynamic and razor-edged, with shades of At the Drive in, we are sure they are going to blaze a path through our ears and into our hearts. Support also comes from the exceptional instrumental band from Bristol the **Brackish**. Masters of Psych, Prog and Kraut Rock, but able to turn as skinny, wiry and blocky as the most post punk in a heartbeat, the Brackish have the rare skill to conjure up the spirits of Steve Reich, Sabbath, Can and Tortoise in the same set - and even the same song. To be seen and experienced. Openers **Fetus Christ** need little introduction. Gleefully antisocial and deranged, this Hereford outfit are well known for their brain-liquidising line in powerviolence / grindcore. Think Sleep meets Infest. Only even more entertaining. You should come down.

Edgew. Coalsack Pics: DUNCAN GRAVES





# 4 Shires Festivals

looking after your happiness

www4shires.events Tel : 01905770192



# Rhapsody Queen



11th June 7.30pm

St Andrews Shopping Centre  
Droitwich WR9 8HE

# Elizabeth II Birthday Party



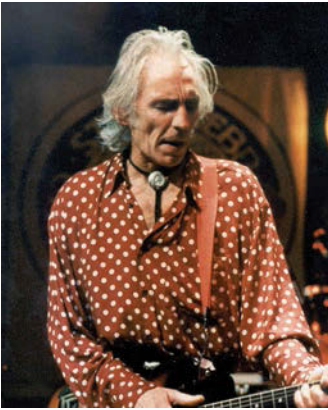
The 5 piece band have performed at events from Hampton Court Palace, Fribourg Festival Switzerland. BBC, RAF, Royal Navy, British Army, IOD London, Dabs Awards Ceremony, the Official Queen Fan Club, Italy, Holland Portugal, Belgium, Switzerland, Estonia, and The British Embassy in Kuwait.

**Tickets £10.00**

In Association with The St Andrews Shopping Centre  
Ticket Office Gardeners Arms Vines Lane Droitwich WR9 8LU  
Call 01905770192 Online tickets [www.4shires.events](http://www.4shires.events)

# Tenbury Music Festival

Saturday 18th June 12 noon - 12 midnight



This is the sophomore event for this excellent in aid of charity festival and this year's worthy cause is **Teenage Cancer Trust**.

Last year this was a successful laid-back but exciting happening in the glorious county town setting and this year plans to be even better. To this end the organisers have procured the terrific talents of the likes of

**Steve Gibbons Band**, **Robbie Blunt Band** and **Quill** as headliners, with fresh young acts announced such as **Goodnight Lenin** (who played Glastonbury last year) and **Alternative Dub Orchestra**.

Combine these with established names such as **Steve Ajo Blues Band**, **Dave Onions**, **Fabulous Bordellos** and **Obscure**, and you end up with a potent, magical mix bound to thrill and entertain.

In addition to the main arena there will be an Acoustic Stage featuring an eclectic musical mix plus plenty of good grub and grog to keep you well fed and watered, from Paella to West Indian and coffee to cocktails - something for everyone as a good fest should!

You can also expect all the interesting extras such as craft stalls and workshops together with quality camping facilities and much more besides!

For full details and ticketing options please visit:

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

[www.facebook.com/tenburymusicfestival](http://www.facebook.com/tenburymusicfestival)

[www.twitter.com/tenburymusic](http://www.twitter.com/tenburymusic)

## Hunter And The Bear

+ Connor Maher (Acoustic)

Marrs Bar, Worcester | Saturday 4th June

Every fledgling band needs their own rehearsal space – the school music room or the drummer's bedroom – but **Hunter And The Bear** ended up in a soundproofed shipping container in a London car park, a nice touch for a band that are certainly going places. Starting out as a duo, long-time friends **Jimmy Hunter** (lead guitar/mandolin) and **Will Irvine** (guitar/lead vocals and nicknamed "The Bear" at school, so work out the origins of their unusual band name yourselves) ended up at the same university in Newcastle writing songs together before heading south to London in 2012 in pursuit of gigs.

Their hard work and enthusiastic approaching to playing live, anywhere and anytime, led to the addition of drummer **Gareth Thompson**, who they spotted playing at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club and the rhythm section was completed in 2014 with the addition of bassist **Chris Clark**, a timely move as they were given the opportunity to support Eric Clapton on his UK arena tour that same summer as well as performing at Scotland's **T In The Park** and **Belladrum Tartan Heart** festivals.



The band's influences are rich and varied, which is reflected in their music. Irvine and Hunter's Scottish upbringings lent exposure to traditional music but a love of classic rock bands like Lynyrd Skynyrd and The Band shines through in both song-writing and performance – a powerful blend of folk, rock and country, with strong vocal harmonies and soaring guitar lines. Debut EP "*Dusty Road*" (featuring favourites "*Forest On The Hill*" and "*Taliesin*") earned high praise and the follow-up EP "*Before I Came Home*" was preceded by single "*Pick Me Up*."

In August this year, the band played Reading Festival and new EP entitled "*Wildfire*" was released in the summer, containing standout tracks "*Burn It Up*" and "*Since September*."

With support coming from Marrs Bar mainstay **Connor Maher** this is a definite early June date for your diaries!

[www.wegotickets.com/event/353597](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/353597)

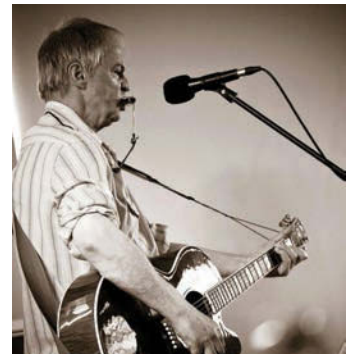
## Steve Dagggett

The Marrs Bar, Worcester | Friday 8th July

On his way to **The New Forest Folk Festival** the next night, top drawer acoustic singer-songwriter lands at this Worcester landmark venue on Friday 8th July. **Steve Dagggett** is a member of absolute folk-rock legends **Lindisfarne**, famed for hits such as *Meet Me On The Corner*, *Lady Eleanor* and of course *Fog On The Tyne*, amongst many others.

Having been associated with this Newcastle folk royalty for over 30 years it will come as no surprise that Steve features some of Lindisfarne's well known songs in his own solo set, together with tunes from dearly departed and remembered Lindisfarne founder, **Alan Hull**. Steve has of course a wealth of own penned material and also reinterprets other 'borrowed' songs, as he brings his stripped down but always emotionally charged show to Worcester.

Expect bare-wire guitar paired with lonesome harmonica, gritty, soulful vocals and stomp box bass drum, all adding up to a performance which has been described as, "*60's Bob Dylan meets the England of Ray Davies, the Americana of Gram Parsons and the Celtic rock of Mike Scott.*"



High praise indeed and a top class night in prospect once again at Worcester's premier music venue.

[www.stevedaggett.co.uk](http://www.stevedaggett.co.uk) [www.lindisfarne.com](http://www.lindisfarne.com)

# Upton Jazz Festival

## Thursday 23rd June - Sunday 26th June

World class musicians are lining up for this the 31st **Upton-upon-Severn Jazz Festival**, which will help cement its place as the best Jazz Festival in the UK. Four delightful days of music get under way on Thursday, June 23 when 10,000 music fans will descend on the town for gigs ranging from New Orleans and Dixieland through to European, hot club and gipsy jazz.



A French theme will run through this year's fest led by the **Hot Antic Jazz Band**, who play 20s-style jazz, the **Hippocampus Jass Gang** from Montpellier and gipsy jazz kings



**Montparnasse**. in addition to the 60 or so concerts due to take place, there will be plenty of opportunity for dancers both experienced and beginners to loosen their lallies. Marquees with wooden dancefloors will be available whilst the dance music will be provided by the likes of 15-piece **London Swing Orchestra**, Leeds-based **Louis Louis Louis** and **GI Jive** from Manchester.

In addition to all the above, The Best of Young Jazz showcase, now in its eighth year, celebrates the cream of up-and-coming talent. Mix all this with a massive festival bar, not to mention the myriad of pubs and clubs in Upton town, plus lively riverboat shuffles and you have all the ingredients for one helluva jazzilicious long weekend!

Festival goers will also be treated to a glittering Mardi Gras style parade through the streets on Saturday morning and a gospel-style jazz church service on the Sunday.

Need we say more?? No! So get yerself across to [www.uptonjazz.co.uk](http://www.uptonjazz.co.uk) or phone 01684 593254 for full information and all your ticketing needs. See you groovy cats there!

## TENBURY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday 18th June 2016 12pm-12am

MAINSTAGE

**STEVE GIBBONS BAND**

**ROBBIE BLUNT BAND**

**GOODNIGHT LENIN**

**A D O**  
ALTERNATIVE JAZZSTEP ORCHESTRA

**STEVE AJAO & THE BLUES GIANTS**

**QUILL AND BEV BEVAN**

**DAVE ONIONS**

**FABULOUS BORDELLOS**

**OBSCURE**

ACOUSTIC STAGE

**ABIGAIL KELSEY**

**GLEN WILSON**

**OLIVIA PEVECH**

**DAN GREENAWAY**

**COOPER & DAVIS**

**DANNY GEE & DAVE SMALL**

Tickets from Tenbury Tourist Information Centre 01284 810135

<small>Early Bird</small>	<small>Gate</small>	<small>• Rain Marquee</small>
Adults	£17	£20
12-17	£8	£10
<small>Accompanied Under 12 FREE!</small>		<small>• Camping</small>
0843 289 3333		<small>• Cocktail bar</small>
		<small>• Beer Tent</small>
		<small>• Food</small>

www.tenburymusicfestival.co.uk

Find us on social media:

Teenage Cancer Trust is a registered charity 1062509 (England & Wales) SC39757 (Scotland)

## THE PIG & DRUM

**Lowesmoor, Worcester**

**Large Beer Garden with Marquee**

**Live Music & DJs every Weekend**

**Function Room Available**

**Pool Table, Juke Box, Skittle Alley**

**6 Draught Ciders & Real Ales!**

**Friendly happy staff**

**Student Discount**

**Bands always wanted**

**For all our events visit our facebook & website**

**facebook.com/piganddrumlowesmoor**

**www.piganddrumworcs.co.uk**

**Contact 07854 498018**

# New Release

## Paul J. Rose | Peeping In The Kettles

Anyone who has a passing interest in local music will know of **Paul Rose**, a singer-songwriter who's been performing in and around the county for a number of years. Whether treading the boards at local open mic nights, taking to the road to busk around Worcestershire, or in more recent times fronting his own band the **Paul Rose Dictatorship**, Mr Rose is a most welcome and regular fixture on the 'scene'. During his many years of performing Paul has played at near enough every live music venue across the county gaining support for his direct and honest approach to songwriting.

*Peeping In The Kettles* is Paul's fourth album to date and was recorded over a two year period. It captures the essence of what makes Rose such an inviting artist; there's no pretence in anything Paul does, the songs are like little snapshots of his life and the human condition in general. Paul's delivery is always pure and true with no fake rock star persona or put on voice here (which seems to have become something of an unwanted trend). The other endearing factor that Paul has always possessed is his ability to compose an instant, simplistic hook, whether that's an infectious melody or a contagious chorus and on the new album both feature aplenty over the twelve track duration.



The album opens oddly enough with a sample of a Leyland national bus before an acoustic guitar and Paul's mantra like lead join on the short, yet fascinating psych piece '*Giving Away The Gold*'. Paul follows with '*Stranger When Sober*', a combination of acoustic strums, electric melodies, a range of deliciously tongue in cheek verses, each one topped with an effortless yet ever changing sing-a-long refrain. '*Tell Me More Part 510*' is a delicious yearning (mostly) acoustic number peppered with a brief wheezing harmonica, crackles of electricity, a glorious hook-laden vocal refine and the first mention of norepinephrine (a chemical release from the nervous system in response to stress!) in recorded history.

Despite the fact that *Peeping In The Kettles* is a solo album, Paul employs multi-tracked harmonies on the likes of '*Shouldism*', whilst '*For Yew*' offers both drums and waves of synth, giving the album a fuller and more sound than on previous recordings. Both '*The Girls In The Flower Shop*' and '*Inseparable*' have a 60's psychedelic feel with the latter particularly impressing with its clever change of direction and key, revealing a wonderful sun kissed chorus. '*Tell Me Your Story*' sees Paul take an interesting change of direction as indie pop synths fizzle alongside driving acoustic strums, whilst the track's refrain encourages repeat spins.

**Paul Rose** has always released interesting and infectious albums, but with *Peeping In The Kettles* he seems to be delivering with a new found confidence. His vocals are his strongest to date, his lyrics continue to compel, whilst each arrangement is laced with an instant, winning hook or melody that's impossible to ignore. Forget trends or the latest fake accent, if you're looking for a singer-songwriter with a fertile mind, who's not afraid to wear his heart on his sleeve and deliver an album true to himself, then look no further than Paul and his latest opus.

Words by Will Munn



# What's On?

at The Swan Theatre and Huntingdon Hall



### Conservatoire Folk Ensemble

4th June - £16



### Think Floyd

10th June - £19.50



U2 2  
11th June - £15



Animals & Friends  
17th June - £19



Andrew O'Neill  
25th June - £14



Kimber's Men  
1st July - £15

Worcester live

BOX OFFICE: 01905 611 427  
www.worcesterlive.co.uk

# OLD BUSH BLUES

THE OLD BUSH, UPTON ROAD, CALLOW END, WORCESTER. WR2 4TE

FRI. 19TH - SUN. 21ST AUGUST 2016

FOR TICKETS, WEEKEND CAMPING AND FURTHER INFO, CONTACT  
(01905) 830782 OR [WWW.OLD-BUSH.COM/OLD-BUSH-BLUES](http://WWW.OLD-BUSH.COM/OLD-BUSH-BLUES)

## THE BEST OF THE BLUES!

**NORTHSYDE**      **CHICKENBONE JOHN**      **THE DELRAY ROCKETS**  
**LUCY ZIRINS**      **TIM HAIN**      **RED BUTLER**      **FIVE FIELD HOLLER**  
**PAUL SNOOK BAND**      **DEBBIE BOND**      **DAVE JACKSON BAND**  
**RICHARD CLARKE BAND**      **PERRY FOSTER**      **ROBIN BIBI BAND**  
**SAM ANDERSON**      **TONE TANNER**      **BACKWATER ROLL**  
**ROLLO MARKEE & THE TAILSHAKERS**      **CRYIN' OUT LOUD**  
**DANNY KYLE**      **ALLEN DIXON & FOTHERGILL**      **JON WALSH**  
**CATFISH**      **NOTORIOUS BROTHERS**      **MELVIN HANCOX**  
**LENNY JAMES & THE GATOR SQUAD**      **JULES BENJAMIN**

**PLUS!**

OUR VERY SPECIAL GUEST...  
**CHRIS FARLOWE**  
WITH THE NEW AMEN CORNER



MR CHRIS FARLOWE

## 28 GREAT BANDS IN 3 DAYS!

Tickets to this event are limited and may not be available on the day

# UPTON festival Blues 2016



15th - 17th  
July

*Some of the Best British Blues*

*Fantastic Riverside Town*

*120 Performances over the Weekend*

*Excellent Organised Camping Facilities*

*Three Official Stages and 12 pub/boat stages*

**Britain's Biggest Free Blues Festival**



**British Blues Awards**  
FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR 2015

 [facebook.com/uptonbluesfestival](https://www.facebook.com/uptonbluesfestival)

 [@uptonblues](https://twitter.com/uptonblues)

[www.uptonbluesfestival.org.uk](http://www.uptonbluesfestival.org.uk)



# Fun And Games In Upton Thanks To The Blues Festival

A celebration for the opening of the new Multi Use Games Area in Upton upon Severn was a real party as the town's Council and residents congratulated the **Upton Blues Festival** which has funded the £40,000 refurbishment

The party, organised by **Upton Town Council** featured sport and singing from Upton upon Severn CE Primary School, free ice cream, and short speeches from the **Mayor Cllr. Tim Dance, Mike Ostick** representing the town's businesses and **Ruth Etheridge**, a Trustee from the Blues Festival. The refurbishment of the derelict tennis courts now provides a great space for residents and visitors to Upton upon Severn all year round.

A registered charity and voted Festival of the Year in the British Blues Awards 2015, the Upton Blues Festival is a completely free to attend festival of blues music in its widest sense which swamps the streets of Upton upon Severn with around 20,000+ people and 120 performances every July.

*"The Council is absolutely delighted with the new area, and is extremely grateful to the Blues Festival for their generosity,"* said Cllr. Tim Dance. *"It is a fantastic facility for the town and is already being really well used."*

*"The festival has doubled in size over the last couple of years and now generates a level of income that enables us to invest both in blues educational programmes in local schools and now in facilities within the town,"* said Ruth Etheridge, Festival Trustee. *"We have built an outstanding event that brings people from all over the UK and the town is the festival's secret weapon, providing a great backdrop to the stages and festivities."*



*"Without the support of the 1000's of music lovers who come here every year and the work of everyone involved in the festival we couldn't be able to make this happen and give this to the town, so it is a huge thankyou to everyone who has been with us over the last 14 years and we look forward to seeing you all again next July,"* concluded Ruth.

**The Upton Blues Festival** – [www.uptonbluesfestival.org.uk](http://www.uptonbluesfestival.org.uk) – will be held on 15-17 July 2016



Grahame Bunn (Festival Vice Chair), Cllr Tim Dance (Mayor of Upton upon Severn) and Ruth Etheridge (Festival Trustee and Committee Member) celebrate the announcement.

## ON THE MOVE AGAIN

### A NEW HOME, A NEW CHALLENGE!

As always our success is in your hands...

[www.worcestercityfc.com](http://www.worcestercityfc.com)



Keeping up **Season Ticket** sales is the main way for us to stay financially healthy and to stay playing at National North level.

**Here are our National League North ticket prices for 2016/17 season.**

**WE WILL BE TRYING TO NEGOTIATE SPECIAL RATES FOR BUS AND RAIL TRAVEL TO OUR NEW TEMPORARY HOME AT BROMSGROVE FOR SEASON TICKET HOLDERS**

### Season Ticket Prices

Adult £221    Concessions £153    16-21s £102    Under 16s £20

### 10 Game Ticket Prices

Adult £110    Concessions £80    16-21s £50

**DIG DEEP, KEEP THE FAITH, BRING CITY HOME!**

# The Vim Dicta

## The Iron Road, Evesham | 14 May 2016

Have you ever had that moment of blinding revelation when it dawns on you that a good gig has just turned into a great gig?

Sometimes it happens gradually throughout the evening, sometimes you don't realise it until you're on your way home or wake up the next morning with a sense of disbelief at what you watched. And then sometimes, it just happens right then and there, mid-song.

Had one of those at **The Iron Road** the other day...

There wasn't a great crowd there to witness this revelation, which is unusual for The Iron Road on a Saturday night, but the irresistible attractions of The Eurovision Song Contest and the first decent barbecue weather of the year (I can't believe I just wrote that) combine to slash live audiences across the board.

First of all, we are richly entertained by **Aramantus**, who are making their first appearance here. They're in something of a purple patch at the moment, having won through to the final of **Metal to the Masses** and released their debut EP in the same week – no need to tell you really that they played a great set – lively, fluent, diverse and obviously having such great fun making music. You need to see this band.

Even the casual observer wandering in off the street to take in some music would have noticed that among the modest crowd, there are an awful lot of photographers – in fact we make up the best part of the front row. There's an American band in town and we're well up for seeing what's on offer from over the water. I suspect there's more than a couple of us who are wondering exactly what 'PsychoGroove' is, as well. If we don't know before the show, we are definitely left in no doubt by the end.

**The Vim Dicta** are a three piece from Los Angeles who have seemingly taken up residence in the UK, having been here for several weeks and who are touring and playing festivals right through until Autumn.



It's pretty clear from the off, that psych is their main stock in trade, but before they can expand on their musical treatise, disaster strikes as bass player and vocalist **Cori Elliott's** amp expires. Now this is a pretty disturbing event 5000 miles from home in the heart of the British countryside, but are they fazed? Not a bit of it. While determined but unsuccessful efforts are made to get the object running again, guitarist **Matt Tunney** and drummer **Chris Infusino** simply improvise imaginatively and with an unfeasible amount of cool until an amp is borrowed from Aramantus. No dead air, no panics, just on with the show.

And what a show. 'PsychoGroove' turns out to be a head on collision between psych, funk and alt-rock, delivered with an elegant smoothness and an extraordinary use of dynamic.

Elliott's funky bass lines, crisply delivered using a pick throughout for extra snap, crackle and pop (bass purists, try not to injure yourselves while fainting) anchor the often rapidly changing rhythms - best demonstrated on the title track from their debut EP "Von Tango" - while Infusino's drumming, which is much admired in the room and online afterwards, propels the sound off stage with some force. Tunney's guitar work, quick and assured though it is, eschews elaborate histrionics in favour of delivering slabs of sound with particularly fine fast strum chord work close to the pickups.

But for all the instrumental prowess on show, the most startling instrument is Elliott's voice - it is huge - goodness knows where it comes from as she's a very slender woman but if her mic had packed in as well, I don't think she'd have had any trouble making herself heard. Astonishing.

Where did my moment of revelation dawn? About half way through the track 'Stranger', which took the quiet/loud/quiet/loud format and shook it like a terrier with a rat, the almost whispered verses building slowly up to a shattering crescendo for the chorus. Absolutely boss track and proof, if it were needed, that we were in the presence of a very special band indeed.

A privilege to have been there.

As your local estate agent would say – "early viewing strongly recommended".

[www.thevimdicta.com](http://www.thevimdicta.com)

Geoffrey Head



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

**SLAP**  
MAGAZINE

SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers

[adverts@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:adverts@slapmag.co.uk)





# NozStock

## the Hidden Valley



22 - 24 July 2016  
HEREFORDSHIRE, WEST MIDLANDS



FIRST WAVE OF ACTS ANNOUNCED

# JURASSIC 5

## GENTLEMAN'S DUB CLUB

### FOREIGN BEGGARS SLAMBOREE

THE HOT 8 BRASS BAND

PROFESSOR ELEMENTAL

SPLIT PROPHETS

DR SYNTAX + PETE CANNON

SON OF DAVE

TANKUS THE HENGE

SOLO BANTON + THE UPPER CUT BAND

HOUDINI DAX

KAGOULE

EVA LAZARUS

HARLEIGHBLU

THE LOVELY EGGS

JENNA + THE GS

MYSTRO + CUT LA VIS

SHANTY

YOUTH MAN

SAM REDMORE

**FRICTION FT. LINGUISTICS    DUB PHIZIX + STRATEGY**

**DJ MARKY & MC GO**

**THE PROTOTYPES**

**DIMENSION**

RENE LAVICE + STAPLETON

JFB

ULTERIOR MOTIVE B2B JUBEI

TEDDY KILLERZ

ROCKWELL RANDALL CHANNEL ONE

XTRAH + STEALTH

AMOSS

OCTO PI SCOPE

TRIBE OF FROG • SIKA STUDIOS • ELECTRIC BALLROOM ELECTRO SWING  
LAUGHING STOCK COMEDY • CLIK CLIK'S CABINET OF LOST SECRETS  
VELVETEEN VALLEY CABARET • MASH CINEMA: WRONG DIRECTIONS  
BANTAM OF THE OPERA THEATRE • SPARE ROOM ARTS: LITTLE WONDERLAND



CAMPLUGH

BURGOYNE

dt

Oliver's

ZOO BELLS

attitude



www.nozstock.com



# The Snarling

Artrix, Bromsgrove | Thursday 28th July

Returning to Artrix after its triumphant full-house Midlands premiere there in March, **The Snarling** is an hilarious comedy-horror and a true labour of love for Worcestershire born director, writer, actor and co-producer **Pablo Raybould**.

Due both to the quality of the script and Pablo's previously top quality acting appearances, **The Snarling** managed to attract some household names to the cast, namely **Joel Beckett** who was Lee in *The Office* and Alfie Moon's shady brother Jake in *Eastenders*, **Julie Peasgood** from *Emmerdale* and **Chris Simons** from *Casualty*.



Together with a quality Midlands crew and shot in Redditch, **The Snarling** has proved a massive hit wherever it has been screened. Named *'Film of The Festival'* at **Horror on Sea** this year, a big draw and firm favourite at **Derby Film Festival** and soon to be shown in the US at the **Gen Con Festival**, **The Snarling** is once again sure to be shown to another sell-out crowd at Bromsgrove's **Artrix**.



Receiving favourable comparisons with Edgar Wright films such as *Shaun Of The Dead* and *Hot Fuzz*, **The Snarling** is the story of when three locals get the chance to get involved in a new horror film being made in their area - but the horror becomes real as a series of gruesome murders and disappearances follow the cast and crew. The police are soon on the scene...then the problems really start! In a case of life imitating art, the crew-created mauled bodies and severed limbs scenarios become a reality when local Redditch and Studley police moved in to investigate during filming!

**Pablo Raybould** is proud of being part of a Midlands' resurgence in what was once a major area for film production and thus this whole enterprise was made with as much local talent as possible. With this in mind and the fact it has gained so many plaudits, **The Snarling** is well worth your patronage and tickets are available through Artrix box office.

For more updates on **The Snarling's** progress please follow them on twitter @thesnarling or [www.facebook.com/TheSnarling/](http://www.facebook.com/TheSnarling/)

50 SLAP JUNE

# Fat Man Blues | Richard Wall

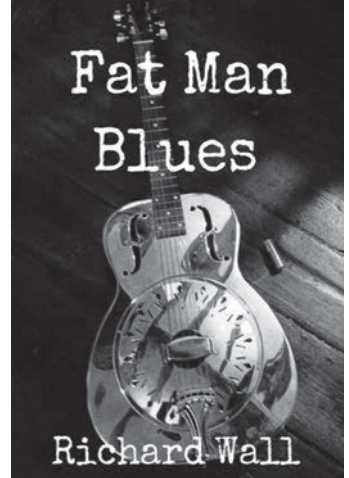
News of an intriguing new book came to our notice at Slap HQ and we wanted to impart our knowledge. **Fat Man Blues** is the enigmatic debut novel of **Richard Wall** who hails from Suckley, deep in the Worcestershire countryside.

It tells the tale of English blues enthusiast name of Hobo John who embarks on a modern day pilgrimage to Mississippi. There he meets the mysterious 'Fat Man' who offers him the chance to travel back in time and see the Delta as it once was back in the heyday of the blues.

Our man simply cannot resist, but will his decision and the deal he's done come back to haunt him as he discovers the difference between the romantic notions and true, harsh reality of the music he loves?

Read and find out, as this promising debut is now available from Amazon. *Fat Man Blues* is getting good reviews, with the distinct possibility of a mainstream publishing

deal ever more likely. Good luck Richard and we await further developments with interest.



*Real Ale Pub*

## THE PAUL PRY

LIVE MUSIC FOR  
**MAY**

3rd June - Will Killeen  
11th June - Bourbon Alley  
15th June - Comedy Night  
17th June - Ewan Pollock

*All Free Entry - Come Down & Visit Us!  
Musicians wanting to play at The Paul Pry,  
pop in and talk to Sam or contact him at  
'gwin07@hotmail.com'*

Real Ales  
Live Music  
Warm atmosphere

Home  
Cooked Food  
(Tues - Sat Lunch Times)

# Marie-Claire Berreen & Her Husbands

**The Cap & Gown, Worcester | Sunday 15th May**

Following on from the recent album launch party for *'Come Home'*, the second album by Worcester based Marie-Claire and her band of husbands, Berreen returns to the heart of the city for a stripped down, early evening performance at **The Cap & Gown**. Missing a bass player and half drumkit, the band performed an engaging set incorporating a number of older songs and quirky covers as the band once again stretched the parameters of folk, mixing a combination of pop and even alternative rock into the proceedings.



The band opened with the aptly titled *'Husbands'*, which despite being based around a Worcester myth concerning a woman and her numerous suitors, the track is a light and breezy number, with **Marie-Claire's** vocals shimmering alongside a delicate yet inviting mix of **Steve Wattinson's** acoustic guitar, **Tommy Jennings-Bates** keyboard twinkles and the inventive percussion work of **Dan Slade**. From there the band move onto *'The Journey'* and the first use of Marie-Claire's infamous bells, before a gorgeous love song in the shape of *'Honeypie'*. Taken from the group's debut album *'Box And A Ribbon'* this exceptional song uses near orchestral keyboards, combining beautifully with Berreen's angelic vocals and Wattinson's soft harmonies, making this the floatiest of ballads. It is all going swimmingly as the band banter among

themselves and with the audience, showing a natural ease and playful side as they moved effortlessly through the first half of their performance.

Recent album highlights *'Spark'* and the first half's closing number *'Darkness Of The Day'* both stood out, with tapped percussion, lush harmonies, guitar strums and Berreen's soulful voice lifting the Tything pub. Each number is greeted with rabid applause, the odd sing-along and even an outbreak of dancing, whilst a rendition of *'What Deaner Was Talkin' About'* by alternative cult heroes Ween, showcased a previously unheard side to The Husbands allowing Wattinson to help out on lead vocals and a chance to really let loose.

After a break and a bit of lubrication, the band return stretching out, as a shout out from the audience for first album favourite *Mr Monster*, results with them being joined onstage by a young barfly on the bells. Marie-Claire signalled each chime to the newcomer adding to the laid back manner of the performance, with this newest, youngest Husband receiving a wave of appreciation from both audience and band alike. The band following swiftly on with a wondrous rendition of *'Come Home'* before rounding off the evening with a run through *'Starfish & Coffee'* by Prince and finishing with a flourish and their second Ween cover of the day *'Banana's And Blow'*.

Whether with her full band of Husbands or in this more stripped environment, Marie-Claire and her band never fail to dazzle with their inventive take on the folk genre and beyond. Berreen's gorgeous vocal tones and their compelling stories captivate from start to finish, deserving of a much wider audience. While they are still performing intimate shows like this at The Cap & Gown, I highly recommend you take the opportunity to catch them up close and personal.

*Words by Will Munn*

## EMPTY SPACES House Clearance

*Selling a Property or just de-cluttering?*



**We offer an all round Clean and Courteous Service**

- House ● Garage
- Loft ● Cellar

Call **07973 520 962**  
or **01905 755 715**

**Avoid the pain - Let us take the strain...**



Independent Financial Advice  
**www.malvernifa.co.uk**

***Business Development IFA of the year'***  
***- AwardWinner- Highclere Castle - 2011!***

**Office: 01684 588188**

***Call us now for quality advice and peace of mind!***

2plan wealth management Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. It is entered on the FCA register (www.fca.org.uk) under reference 461598.

## Pilla, Sativa, Soden Marrs Bar, Worcester | Thursday 12th May

**Pilla's** first headline gig was almost too good to put into words. Local doom murkers **Soden**, who thrust out dark and heavy grooves on a regular basis, were a perfect opening for this dramatic night. Not only do they get more satisfying every time I see them, but they have an E.P to be proud of. With no vocals, it



draws you in purely on the merit of it's heaviness and brilliant composition. It is moody, and momentous, enticing you with every song crafted in a way that combines every element and that makes a three piece doom group work, and is definitely worth a go.



Dutch stoner metal band **Sativa** brought more fun to the table. Their sludgy, fuzzy and thrashy riffs will never fail to please you, if you like your metal fast, melodic and punchy-riff-driven. **Soden** and **Sativa**



wrapped up the the *Days of Groove* tour in May which took them around the UK and European spots such as Amsterdam and Antwerp, Worcester felt very lucky to get in on that one.

All three bands played extremely well and were complimented by such a great crowd, the night was a testament to the **Marrs Bar** and the organisers (**Lo-promo promotions**) for once again giving young talented underground bands a chance to play at such a professional venue with a high quality sound.

**Pilla**, who now have recorded a demo which is free online, and can be picked up at any of their gigs, had smashed their way to the grand final of *Metal to The Masses* Wolverhampton. They could not have created a more potent atmosphere. Some new songs, plus some beautiful haunting interludes made the set blend and flow in the rapturous progressive Pilla style, that draws on many influences, but notably an affinity with bands such as Gojira and Tool. Maintaining their power and anger throughout was no task. The progressive metal band from Worcester have made a great break as a headliner. With just the right amount of acting from the demonic, infernal front man, plus some fake blood spattered across the dance floor, some guitar strap CPR issued by Daz from Soden, a lot of moshing in the crowd, and they were on their way to M2TM final.

Another memorable night on the ever evolving Worcester metal scene.

*By Jessica Charles Photography By Sebastian Potts.*

---

## Dave O'Higgins Quartet | Stratford Jazz Stratford ArtsHouse | Wednesday 11th May 2016

This was my first opportunity to sample Stratford Jazz's offerings from their new home at **Stratford ArtsHouse**. For me, this is an ideal venue for jazz, the artwork used as a backdrop to the bandstand only adding to the ambience. Under Jay Riley's leadership and with the help of **Dionne Sambrook**, **Stratford Jazz** is entering an exciting and vibrant new period. Indeed, this was Dionne's first booking and what an inspired choice. Dionne clearly has an astute head for hot jazz.



From the first notes of the evening it was evident that **Dave O'Higgins** had worked hard to build a rapport with his bandmates, having worked with them for upwards of twenty years.

**Robin Aspland** was featured on the club's recently acquired grand piano to great effect. **Geoff Gascoyne** was both sublimely supportive of his fellow musicians and powerfully assertive in his solo features. As always, **Sebastiaan de Krom** was tasteful in accompaniment to the drums and in his solos proved to be most melodic. The repertoire was largely familiar jazz standards together with a sprinkling of originals from O'Higgins and Gascoyne including some material from their recent recordings. The Quartet chose not to use the newly-acquired PA system, preferring to play acoustically and they were all the better for it. O'Higgins is a very powerful and self-assured saxophonist, his playing often reminding me of past masters of the instrument, in particular **Johnny Griffin**. Stratford Jazz should be applauded for bringing a top-class Quartet to town and a return visit is eagerly anticipated.

The club has a strong programme for the remainder of the season with Midlands stalwarts **Bryan Corbett** and **Tom Hill** and, to end the season, **Jay Riley's Quartet**. But the question on everyone's lips is who will Dionne book next? Be sure to get along to one of the up-coming gigs and help to keep live jazz in Stratford.

Keep in touch by checking out the **Stratford Jazz** website [www.stratfordjazz.org.uk](http://www.stratfordjazz.org.uk)

Words and photography: Alan Musson

# Regular Music Sessions & Open Mic Nights

**Every Monday - Folk Session**  
Lamb & Flag, Worcester

**Every Monday - Open Mic**  
Royal Oak, Ledbury

**Every Monday - Open Mic/Jam Night**  
Cock & Magpie, Bewdley

**Every Monday - Folk Night**  
Worley's, The Swan, Stourport

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

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

**Fortnightly Mon Open Mic**  
Cafe Mambo @ 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

**First Tues - Folk Session run by Phil Knowles**  
Rose and Crown, Feckenham

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

**First Tues - For 12-19 year olds 7pm**  
Pershore Library

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

**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 Tues - Folk Evening**  
The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

**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 Wednesday - Ukulele Session**  
The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Every other Wednesday - Folk Sessions**  
The Crown, Colwall

**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 - Marzys Jam Night**  
Marrs Bar, Worcester

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

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

**1st Thurs - Folk Session**  
Farmers Arms, Wellington Heath

**1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club**  
The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

**Every Thurs - Troublesome Trio**  
Cock & Magpies, 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**  
Catshill Club, Bromsgrove

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

**Every Thurs from 9.30 - West Malvern Music Night**  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

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

**Every Thursday - Acoustic Session**  
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

**Every Thursday - Folk Session run by Bob Chance**  
Black Swan Muchdew Church, Hereford

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

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

**Third Thursday - Malvern Storytellers**  
The Great Malvern Hotel - £1.50. See malvernstorytellers.co.uk

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

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

**Every Friday - Somers Trad Folk Club run by Sam & Eleanor**  
The Alma Tavern, Worcester

**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

**Every Friday Lunch Time - Folk Session**  
Three Kings, Hanly Castle

**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

**2nd Sat (3rd Sat in Feb) - Rushwick Folk Club**  
Rushwick Village Hall, Worcester

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

**2nd Sun - Singaround Session**  
The Yew Tree Inn, Peterstow, Herefordshire

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

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

**Every Sunday - Open Mic 7.30**  
ScaryCanary, Stourbridge

**2nd Sun - Acoustic Session**  
The Hop Pole, Droitwich

**Sunday afternoon jazz 12.00 - 3.00**  
Lichfield Vaults

**Last Sun - Mixed Acoustic Sessions**  
The Bowling Green Inn, Stoke Prior

**Last Sun - Open Mic with Simon Wallace**  
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**1st & 3rd Sun - Singaround format Session**  
The Galton Arms, Himbleton, Worcs

**1st & 3rd Sun - 'Baa Chords' Open mic Session**  
The Lamb and Flag, Worcester

**Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish**  
Pickled Plum, Pershore

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

## Wednesday 01 June 2016

### Vagabundos

Café René, Gloucester

### Carl McGregor

The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

### Dodgy

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### Tyler & Friends

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### Ian Siegal, Jimbo Mathus

Vonnies Blues Club, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham

## Thursday 02 June 2016

### Little Brother Eli, Four Dead Crows

Café René, Gloucester

### Knowing Smirk Will Educate You!

The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

### C-Jam

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### You've Got A Friend - The Music Of James Taylor & Carol King

The Swan Theatre, Worcester

### Almost Unpugged Hosted By Dark Island

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

### Damon Thomas, Tone Tanner, Stripped Down Blues

The Cap 'N' Gown, Worcester

### Gilmore And Roberts

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### Westrock

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### The Ferrets

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

### The Vagabundos

The Prince Albert, Stroud

## Friday 03 June 2016

### Lawrie Jean Lees

The Wharf, Stourport

### Up Town Skankin Presents The Stiff Joints!

Club 11, Stourbridge

### Tbc

The Cap 'N' Gown, Worcester

### See [www.lunarfestival.co.uk](http://www.lunarfestival.co.uk)

Lunar Festival, Tanworth-In-Arden

### Asparafest Music & Food Festival See:

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

The Fleece, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

### See: [www.wychwoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.wychwoodfestival.co.uk) For Full Line-Up

Wychwood Festival, Cheltenham Racecourse

### Aquarius

The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

### Ignition Presents Electric Soup, Soden & King Corpse

The Boar's Head, Kidderminster

### Left Hand Man Album Launch Gig

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

### Proto

Millers Arms, Pershore

### The Troy Redfern Band, Damon T, Solid Gone, Hard Stairs,

The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

### Delray Rockets

Queens Head Wolverley, Wolverley, Kidderminster

### The Worried Men

Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

### Bonnie Lou

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### Kevin Brown (Trio), Zoe Spencer & Ben Smith

St Georges Hall, Bewdley

### Stroud Americana Festival

([www.subscriptionromms.org.uk](http://www.subscriptionromms.org.uk))

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### The Worried Men

Golden Cross Inn, Sutton St Nicholas, Hereford

### Kara Feat Daria Kulesh + Guests

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### The Blues Anoraks

The Red Lion, Evesham

### Jay & Eli

The Pheasant, Worcester

### Mister Wolf

The Lamplighter, Stratford Upon Avon

### Kevin Brown Trio, Ben Smith & Zoe Spencer

Saint Georges Hall, Bewdley

### Protocol

The Millers Arms, Pershore

### The Sons Of Pitches + Jessica Rhodes

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### The Fred Skidmore Organ Trio

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

### Russell Watson - Songs From The Heart

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

### Liquor & Poker

River Rooms, Stourbridge

### The Soapgirls, Rebel Station

Iron Road, Evesham

### The Bohemians, Dexeter, Neil Ivison, Foregate Street Blues

SevernSounds Festival, Worcester

### Arthur Elbeling

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### The Delray Rockets

The Queens Head, Wolverley

### Will Killeen

The Paul Pry, Worcester

### Come Up And See Me

Drummonds, Worcester

### Lounge Toad

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### The Grimaldi Band

The Red Lion, Evesham

### Amophica, Nuns Of Tundra

Pig & Drum, Worcester

### Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds

The Lounge, Malvern

## Saturday 04 June 2016

### Mimosa

The Swan, Studley

### Hunter And The Bear

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### See [www.lunarfestival.co.uk](http://www.lunarfestival.co.uk)

Lunar Festival, Tanworth-In-Arden

### Asparafest Music & Food Festival See:

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

The Fleece, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

### See: [www.wychwoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.wychwoodfestival.co.uk) For Full Line-Up

Wychwood Festival, Cheltenham Racecourse

### Mel And Him

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

### Faintest Idea & Jake And The Jellyfish

The Boar's Head, Kidderminster

### Pandoras Box 60S Psych/Gavage Djs

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

### Kay Green

West Mavlvn Social Club, Malvern

### One Tree Canyon

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

### Popes Of Chillitown, Sundown, Purple Flavoured Death,

The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

### The Cuginis

Subtone, Cheltenham

### The Festivals Experience

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### Joe Broughton's Conservatoire Folk Ensemble

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### Stuart Woolfenden

Cripplegate Park, Worcester

**Stroud Americana Festival (Www.Subscriptionrooms.Org.Uk)**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Danadra**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Gravelly Hill**  
The Star Inn, Malvern

**Miles Hunt & Erica Nockalls**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**The Film Orchestra**  
St Michael's And All Angels Church, Near Tenbury Wells WR15 8PH

**Mister Wolf**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
The Village, Wednesbury

**Jay & Eli**  
The Virgin Tavern, Worcester

**Magson**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Rattle Snake Jake**  
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

**The Trevor Burton Band**  
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

**Jagged Hands**  
The Express Inn, Malvern

**Main Stage Acts Someone At The Door 11:30 Sunjay 12:15 Be Bob Da Jig 13:00 Kitten Von Mew 14:00 Rattlesnake Jake 15:00 Norbury Theatre Player's 15:50 Sally Haines And The Oc 16:30 Nicki French (Represented The Uk For Eurovision in 2000) 17:00 Delray Rockets 18:00 The Reflections 19:10 Toploader 20:00, Inside The Oc (Liveroom) Faces For Radio 13:00 Sunjay 13:45 Blueshift 14:35 Sunstone 15:30 Tribute 16:15 The Reflections 17:45 Sunstone 17:00 The Process 19:00 X-Roads 21:30, Visit: [www.Oldcockinn.Co.Uk](http://www.Oldcockinn.Co.Uk) For More Info Old Cock Inn, Droitwich**

**Friar Fest - Headline - Top Loader, Visit [www.Oldcockinn.Co.Uk](http://www.Oldcockinn.Co.Uk) For Full Line Up**  
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Tash's Birthday - Black Slate (Reggae)**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Dna**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**The Magoos, Jasper in The Company Of Others, Institutes, Of Kings And Captains, Clockwork Rifle, Scott Howland, Jodie Howland, Josh Brown, Nobby Wright**  
Severnsounds Festival, Worcester

**Groovyhead**  
The Chestnut Tree, Worcester

**Chewie**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Will Killeen, Turquoise Llama**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Bourbon Alley**  
Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

**Captain Jeffery**  
Pig & Drum, Worcester

## Sunday 05 June 2016

**S Fest After Show Party (3-9Pm)**  
The Wharf, Stourport

**Woo Town Hillbillies**  
White Bear, Tewkesbury

**Sunday Showcase**  
The Cap 'N' Gown, Worcester

**See [www.Lunarfestival.Co.Uk](http://www.Lunarfestival.Co.Uk)**  
Lunar Festival, Tanworth-In-Arden

**Asparafest Music & Food Festival See: [www.Asparafest.Co.Uk](http://www.Asparafest.Co.Uk)**  
The Fleece, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**See: [www.Wychwoodfestival.Co.Uk](http://www.Wychwoodfestival.Co.Uk) For Full Line-Up**  
Wychwood Festival, Cheltenham Racecourse

**Peter Howarth**  
Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

**Stroud Americana Festival (Www.Subscriptionrooms.Org.Uk)**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Ags Connolly**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**The Blue Dive**  
The Old Crown, Birmingham

**The Tubby Bluesters**  
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Mickey & Griff**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Blobbie Williams, Done By Sunrise, Nathanael, Lucy May Walker, Demi Marriner, Sonny Price, Cwlc Battle Of The Band Winners,**  
Severnsounds Festival, Worcester

**The Ponderosa, Russell Joslin**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Jenny Hallam 5.30Pm**  
The Chestnut Tree, Worcester

## Monday 06 June 2016

**Dave Onions**  
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

## Tuesday 07 June 2016

**Jim Causley**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

## Wednesday 08 June 2016

**Benjamin Bassford**  
Café René, Gloucester

**Johnny Cash - Tribute**  
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

**Limehouse Lizzy**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Tyler & Friends**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Thursday 09 June 2016

**Gary O'dea**  
The Plough, Worcester

**Richie Parrish (Tanglefoot)**  
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Catshill, Bromsgrove

**Allusondrugs, Ten Tombs, Fizzy Blood, Weirds,**  
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Masai Blues**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Gourmet Evening With Jazz Mosis**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

**Alabama 3**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**On The Level, Contemporary Craft And Jewellery Design Exhibition, 1St Year Degree Show Hereford College Of Arts, Come See What We Do, 9Th, 10Th, 11Th June- 10Am To 5Pm**  
De Koffie Pot, Left Bank, Bridge Street, Hereford

**Jim Causley**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Tbc**  
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

**Neil Ivison**  
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Surprise Attacks Presents:, Petrol Girls, Joliette, The Brackish**  
The Firefly, Worcester

**Soft Option Appalachian Dancers**  
The Chestnut Tree, Worcester

## Friday 10 June 2016

**Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds, Beer Festival**  
The Talbot, Knightwick, Worcester

**Cheltenham-Food-Festival.Garden-Events.Com**  
Cheltenham Food & Drink Festival, Cheltenham

**Tbc**  
The Cap 'N' Gown, Worcester

**Folk in The Foyer - Anthony John Clarke**  
The Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

**Solana**  
Café René, Gloucester

**Chewie**  
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**Disco Tramps, Best of Open Mic, Ptr Williams, Jessica Law**  
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

**Final Warning**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**The Other Covers Trio**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Open Secrets**  
The Ginger Pig Cafe & Bistro, Worcester

**Luicidal, Conspire, Suicide Watch, Snog The Dog,**  
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Voodoo Blue**  
Queens Head Wolverley, Wolverley, Kidderminster

**The Animators**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**Definitely Britpop**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Think Floyd**  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds**  
Flying Pig Beer Festival, Knightwick, Worcester

**Martin And Eliza Carthy**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Michael Messer's Mitra**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Trio Rosbifs**  
Ginger Pig Cafe Bar & Bistro, Worcester

**Protocol**  
The Bluebell, Ryall

**Chicago Bytes**  
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

**Pink - Miss Understood**  
River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Vehicle Band**  
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Arrows Of Time**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**The Reflections, Hog Roast £6-00**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**The Delray Rockets**  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge

**The Commandments**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Diamond City, Hindbrain, Silverfield,**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Melvin Hancox One Man Show**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Wu-Ting: Jungle - Drum & Bass**  
Pig & Drum, Worcester

## Saturday 11 June 2016

**Coffea Strange (Italy)**  
Pig & Drum, Worcester

**Mid-Land Regulators**  
The Swan, Studley

**See [www.jinneyringfolk.co.uk](http://www.jinneyringfolk.co.uk) For Full Line Up**  
The Jinney Ring, Hanbury, Worcs

**Cheltenham-Food-Festival.Garden-Events.Com**  
Cheltenham Food & Drink Festival, Cheltenham

**Rhapsody Queen**  
St. Andrews Shopping Centre, Droitwich

**Paul Snook**  
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**'Black Boxes' (Headlining But We Don't Do Headliners. They Are Louder So They Are Last), 'Cherry Shoes' (Playing Nozstock. From Hay On Wye), 'Friends, Movies, Etc.' Is Chris Holloways Solo Act From Local Art College Band Silverfield..Quite Popular),**  
The Booth Hall (By The Underground Revolution), Hereford

**Black Boxes, Cherryshoes, Friends, Movies, Etc. ,**  
The Underground Revolution At The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Queens Night**  
The Boar's Head, Kidderminster

**The Blue Dive + Lost Cat**  
West Mavilvern Social Club, Malvern

## 56 SLAP JUNE

**Rust For Glory**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Bj Taylor Band**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Dan Williams**  
The Ginger Pig Cafe & Bistro, Worcester

**Mistajam**  
Subtone, Cheltenham

**The Ron Jeremy Band**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Knoxville Highway**  
Palace Theatre - Room Upstairs, Redditch

**Big Jim's Boogie Band**  
Flying Pig Beer Festival, Knightwick, Worcester

**Jack Of All**  
Jinney Ring Folk Festival, Bromsgrove

**Three Acres And A Crow**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Martin O'reilly**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**The Blue Dive**  
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern, Worcestershire

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
Royal British Legion, Ledbury

**Jinney Ring Folk Festival [Visit jinneyringfolk.co.uk](http://www.jinneyringfolk.co.uk)**  
Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Bromsgrove

**Wild Willy Barrett's French Connection**  
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**Tbc**  
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

**Record Store Day All Stars**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Arboretum Fun Day 1.00Pm**  
The Chestnut Tree, Worcester

**Hump De Bump**  
The Chestnut Tree, Worcester

**Bourbon Alley**  
The Paul Pry, Worcester

**Otis Mac**  
Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

**Timeless Jazz**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Sunday 12 June 2016

**Vo Fletcher**  
The Beauchamp Arms, Malvern

**Stone Mountain Sinners**  
The Cap 'N' Gown, Worcester

**Cheltenham-Food-Festival.Garden-Events.Com**  
Cheltenham Food & Drink Festival, Cheltenham

**Greg The Axeman Winters**  
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

**Band Of Rogues, The Grimaldi Band, The Players And Stompin' On Spiders**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

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

**Cory Band**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Ian Sherwood**  
Elmslie House, Malvern

**Lazy Sunday 12-6pm - She Makes War, Davis Lunas, Mark & Beanie, The Blue Dive**  
Café Bliss, Worcester Arts Workshop

**Donna Lewis**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Panic Station**  
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Remi Harris 5.30Pm**  
The Chestnut Tree, Worcester

## Monday 13 June 2016

**Remi Harris Project**  
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**Joe Louis Walker**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos



**Jazz in The Studio Theatre**  
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

## Wednesday 15 June 2016

**Battler Of The Bands**  
Café René, Gloucester

**Gasoline And Matches**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

**The Convent Choirs Summer Concert**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**John Allen, Patrick Craig**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Comedy Night**  
The Paul Pry, Worcester

**Kas Hawkins Band**  
Vonnies Blues Club, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham

**Tyler & Friends**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Thursday 16 June 2016

**South Midlands Bike Night, The Good The Bad & The Elderly**  
The Fleece, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**Tom Colne**  
The Plough, Worcester

**The Trevor Burton Band**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Tbc**  
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

**Sari & The Engine Room**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Brooke Sharkey**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

## Friday 17 June 2016

**Super On It (Oasis Tribute)**  
The Wharf, Stourport

**Tbc**  
The Cap 'N' Gown, Worcester

**Paul Liddell, Appleby Kinsey**  
Colwall Ale House, Colwall

**Seas Of Mirth**  
Café René, Gloucester

**Gravelly**  
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**Pete Boddis Band - Eyes in The Mirror**  
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

**See: [www.Sonicrocksolstice.com](http://www.Sonicrocksolstice.com)**  
Sonic Rock Festival, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove

**See: [www.Sonicrocksolstice.com](http://www.Sonicrocksolstice.com)**  
Sonic Rock Festival, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove

**Junction 7**  
Millers Arms, Pershore

**Lizzie And The Banshees**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Juan Martin - Arte Flamenco Puro**  
The Courtyard, Hereford

**The Hell, Fausto, Grove Street Families, Strike Back, Bar Fight,**  
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**The Underdogs**  
Queens Head Wolverley, Wolverley, Kidderminster

**The Forfeits**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**The Reflections**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Animals And Friends**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**From The Jam - Bruce Foxton**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Blues Guitar Summit**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Mister Wolf**  
The Lamplighter, Stratford-Upon-Avon

**Suzi & The Backbeats**  
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

**Sensation - The Who Show**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Fred Zeppelin**  
River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Festival Experience Band**  
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**A Fistful Of Spookies**  
St. Peters Church, Cowleigh Bank, North Malvern

**Left For Dead, We Come From Ashes, Kill For Trophies,**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Surprise Attacks Presents:, Bivouac, Bedford Falls, Navajo Ace, Trivial Dispute**  
The Firefly, Worcester

**Luke Colcannon**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Ewan Pollock**  
The Paul Pry, Worcester

**The Sharpees, Black'n'blues Band**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Stomping On Spiders**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**By The Shore, Chevy Chase Stole My Wife**  
Pig & Drum, Worcester

## Saturday 18 June 2016

**Miss Pearl & The Rough Diamonds**  
Out To Grass, Cradley, Malvern

**See [www.Mappfest.Co.Uk](http://www.Mappfest.Co.Uk)**  
Mappfest, Link Top, Malvern

**Plastic Scene**  
Hopfest, Bewdley

**Midsummer Ceilidh With Hekety**  
The Fleece, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

**Hybrid**  
The Express Inn, Malvern

**Mary Hinge**  
The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

**Knzo & Guest Kim Ryder**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**Henry Cluney & Borrowed Time**  
The Boar's Head, Kidderminster

**See: [www.Sonicrocksolstice.com](http://www.Sonicrocksolstice.com)**  
Sonic Rock Festival, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove

**Tubby Bluesters**  
Stagborough Arms, Stourport

**Muchos Tequilas Later, Abel Gray, Rivers, Cashes Green, Sahara Breeze,**  
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Satans Barber Shop**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Taylor And Co**  
New Inn, Pershore

**The Dreamers**  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**Children's Charity Concert**  
Guildhall, Gloucester

**Jack Of All**  
Mappfest, Malvern

**Steve Ferbrache**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Mark Radcliffe's Galleon Blast**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
Cavalier, Kidderminster

**Steve Gibbons Band, Quill With Bev Bevan, Robbie Blunt Band, Goodnight Lenin, Alternative Dubstep Orchestra, Steve Ajao Blues Giants, Dave Onions**  
Tenbury Music Festival, Tenbury Wells

**The Executives**  
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

**Steve Gibbons Band, Quill With Bev Bevan, Robbie Blunt Band, Goodnight Lenin, Alternative Dubstep Orchestra, Steve Ajao Blues Giants, Dave Onions, Fabulous Bordellos, Obscure**  
Tenbury Music Festival, Tenbury Wells

**The Ukulele Festival Of Great Britain**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Voodoo Vegas + Support**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Uncle Jim Band**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**See: [www.tenburymusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.tenburymusicfestival.co.uk)**  
Tenbury Music Festival, Tenbury, Worcs

**Bombay Bassment**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**The Ferrets**  
The Chestnut Tree, Worcester

**3 Bands For £3**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Masquerade Summer Ball**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Aquarius**  
Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

**The Larks, Grassroots**  
Pig & Drum, Worcester

## Sunday 19 June 2016

**See [www.mappfest.co.uk](http://www.mappfest.co.uk)**  
Mappfest, Link Top, Malvern

**Sunday Showcase**  
The Cap 'N' Gown, Worcester

**Marc Drew And Tips**  
The White Bear, Tewkesbury

**See: [www.sonicrocksolstice.com](http://www.sonicrocksolstice.com)**  
Sonic Rock Festival, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove

**Passion**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Lil' Jimmy Reed**  
Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve

**Midland Youth Jazz Orchestra With Clare Teal**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Chet O'keefe & Auburn**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Slowburner**  
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Flekd**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Out Late 5.30Pm**  
The Chestnut Tree, Worcester

## Monday 20 June 2016

**Olb: Broken Teeth + Solemn Promise, Guilt Trip, Restrict, Dusted & Conspire**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

## Tuesday 21 June 2016

**Rory Indiana, Beverly Shrills, Massmatiks, My Mother Lie,**  
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Mike Vernon And The Mighty Combo**  
Iron Road, Evesham

## Wednesday 22 June 2016

**Battle Of The Bands**  
Café René, Gloucester

**Late Life Crisis**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

**Blazin' Fiddles**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

## Thursday 23 June 2016

**See: [www.uptonjazz.co.uk](http://www.uptonjazz.co.uk)**  
Upton Jazz Festival, Upton Upon Severn

**Fcs/Olb: Napoleon, Black Art, Flatline, Bar Fight**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Rock N Roll Rodeo**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Hunter & The Bear**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**Hardwicke Circus (9Pm)**  
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

## 58 SLAP JUNE

**The Bon Jovi Experience**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

## Friday 24 June 2016

**Subkon**  
Pig & Drum, Worcester

**The Executives**  
The Wharf, Stourport

**Tbc**  
The Cap 'N' Gown, Worcester

**Swamp Candy**  
Café René, Gloucester

**See: [www.uptonjazz.co.uk](http://www.uptonjazz.co.uk)**  
Upton Jazz Festival, Upton Upon Severn

**Cutting Loose**  
The Chestnut Tree, Worcester

**Hardwicke Circus**  
Scarycanary, Stourbridge

**Hattie Briggs, Lila J, Demi Marriner, The Hawthornes,**  
The Frog And Fiddle, Cheltenham

**T.B.C.**  
Queens Head Wolverley, Wolverley, Kidderminster

**Will Killeen**  
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

**The Interpreters**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Swallows**  
The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

**Panic Room**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Vehicle**  
Queens Head, Wolverley, Kidderminster

**Jay And Eli**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Chris & Kellie While**  
The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

**The Black Heart Angels**  
Worley's The Swan, Stourport

**Drum Love**  
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

**Andy Fairweather Low & The Low Riders**  
Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

**Meatloaf - Maetloaf**  
River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Aardvark Stew**  
Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

**Food Fighters, Clutch Uk**  
Iron Road, Evesham

**Soul Patrol**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Ian Parker Band, Sunjay**  
Malvern Cube, Malvern

**Applewood Road**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Killerstream**  
Drummonds, Worcester

**Neil Ivison**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## Saturday 25 June 2016

**Paper Wolf + Support**  
Pig & Drum, Worcester

**Drew Hall**  
The Swan, Studley

**Woo Town Hillbillies**  
Faifield Pub, Evesham

**Outlaw'd**  
The Black Lion, Hereford

**Sax Appeal**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**See: [www.uptonjazz.co.uk](http://www.uptonjazz.co.uk)**  
Upton Jazz Festival, Upton Upon Severn

**Punk By Nature Presents Rotunda, The Brandons, The Nerks & Autopsy Boys**  
The Boar's Head, Kidderminster

### **Melt Goes To Glastonbury, You Can Be The Dj!!**

Scarycanary, Stourbridge

### **Rattlesnake Jake**

Stagborough Arms, Stourport

### **Green Haze**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Stiff Joints**

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### **Gravy Train**

New Inn, Pershore

### **Andrew O'neill's History Of Heavy Metal**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

### **British Sea Power**

Guildhall, Gloucester

### **Jan Valsey And Ian Harvey**

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

### **Chicago Bytes Blues Band**

The Black Star, Stourport On Severn

### **Sam Carter**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **The Bobcats**

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

### **The Decades Band**

River Rooms, Stourbridge

### **Parkin Lot**

Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

### **The Gts**

Saracens Head, Worcester

### **Stone Cold Killers, Humm**

Iron Road, Evesham

### **Haunted Souls**

The Chestnut Tree, Worcester

### **Taylor & Co**

Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

### **The Church Lee Sampson Band**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## **Sunday 26 June 2016**

### **Chewie**

The Cap 'N' Gown, Worcester

### **The Midland Regulators**

The White Bear, Tewkesbury

### **See: [www.Uptonjazz.Co.Uk](http://www.Uptonjazz.Co.Uk)**

Upton Jazz Festival, Upton Upon Severn

### **Stuart Bishop**

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### **Will Killeen**

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

### **Jay & Eli**

The Bell, Worcester

### **Nancy Kerr & James Fagan**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **Ian Luther (Electric)**

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

### **The Delray Rockets 5-7Pm**

The Actress And Bishop, Birmingham

### **Sultans Of String**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### **Swamp Candy 5.30Pm**

The Chestnut Tree, Worcester

### **Diamond Dogz**

Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton-Upon-Severn

## **Wednesday 29 June 2016**

### **Franc Cinelli**

Café René, Gloucester

### **Lady And The Sax**

The Hop Pole Inn, Bewdley

### **Flowers Brass Band**

Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

### **The Hitman Blues Band (Usa)**

Iron Road, Evesham

### **Lynne Hanson**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### **Tyler & Friends**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

## **Thursday 30 June 2016**

### **Martin Joseph**

Bromsgrove Folk Club, Catshill, Bromsgrove

### **Honey Boy Hickling**

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

### **The Kaz Hawkins Band**

The Convent, Sth Woodchester, Glos

### **Wild Ponies**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Remember to  
upload your listings at  
[www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed/](http://www.slapmag.co.uk/get-listed/)  
it's quick & simple  
and guarantees inclusion  
or email [editorial@slapmag.co.uk](mailto:editorial@slapmag.co.uk)**

## **Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema**

**3rd/5th High Rise.** Artrix Bromsgrove

**4th Honey** by Reaction theatre makers Market Theatre Ledbury

**4th/5th Asparafest,** Evesham

**8th Jump Start** theatre group meeting, Old Rec, Worcester

**8th – 10th July Retrospectively Speaking:** Norman Neason 1930's-2010. Artrix Bromsgrove.

**9th The Gary and Robert Blues,** Palace Theatre Redditch

**10th The Gary and Robert Blues,** Worcester Arts Workshop

**10th-19th Worcester Litfest and Fringe,** various venues

**11th Story jams** No 8 Pershore

**11th Summer Market,** The Bond Company, Digbeth 12-6pm

**14th The Magnetic Diaries,** The Hive Worcester

**14th-18th Bromsgrove Operatic society Oliver the Musical,** Artrix Bromsgrove

**18th City of Colour,** street arts festival, Digbeth

**18th Hopfest,** Bewdley

**18th – 9th July Bromsgrove Festival**

**19th The Assassin Splendid Cinema,** Worcester Arts Workshop

**26th Jump Start Theatre performance,** Artrix Bromsgrove

**Until 17th July Never Judge a Book...** Richard Booth's Bookshop, Hay on Wye.

**Every Tuesday & Thursdays Capoeira** classes 7-8pm at Studio B – Performing Arts Centre, St Johns, Worcester

# THE MARR'S BAR

JUNE  
JULY 2016



Moose Blood  
Thursday 7th July

**Friday 3rd June**  
Charity fundraiser  
in memory of Linda Henderson  
Donations on the door

**Saturday 4th June**  
Hunter And The Bear  
£10 in advance £12 on the door

**Friday 10th June**  
The Other Covers Trio  
£3 in advance £5 on the door.

**Saturday 11th June**  
Rust For Glory  
£6 in advance £8 on the door

**Sunday 12th June**  
Band Of Rogues  
£3 on the door

**Friday 17th June**  
Lizzie And The Banshees  
£7 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday 18th June**  
3 bands £3

**Monday 20th June**  
OLB: Broken Teeth, Solemn  
Promise, Guilt Trip, Restrict,  
Dusted & Conspire  
£6 in advance £9 on the door

**Thursday 23rd June**  
FCS/OLB: Napoleon  
Black Art, Flatline, Bar Fight  
£6 in advance £8 on the door

**Friday 24th June**  
Panic Room  
£15 in advance £17 on the door

**Saturday 25th June**  
Green Haze  
£6 in advance £8 on the door

**Friday 1st July**  
Tower Studios... GrizzleRoot  
Massive Head, Trauma Days Of End  
£5 on the door £6 after 9pm

**Saturday 2nd July**  
Soul Stripper, Rock Bottom  
£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Thursday 7th July**  
FCS Presents Moose Blood  
Muncie Girls + Navajo Ace  
£11 in advance £13 on the door

**Friday 8th July**  
Steve Daggett  
£4 in advance £5 on the door

**Friday 15th July**  
The Official Receivers  
£8 in advance £10 on the door

**Saturday 16th July**  
Chasing Yesterday  
£5 in advance £7.50 in advance

**Friday 29th July**  
OLB #5 - Grove Street Families  
Blanket Hill (LUX), Headcase  
£4 in advance £7 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**  
Available for private hire