

# SLAP

Issue 70

June 2017

FREE



**SLAP Supporting Local Arts & Performers**



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• SUNDAY •

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# SLAP

June 2017 MAGAZINE

## SLAP MAGAZINE

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Hi and welcome to issue 70 of your free SLAP Magazine - and another bumper edition it is too. In fact I think I'll be spending most of June apologising for what I've had to leave out!

If, like me, you spent the last weekend of May in a field or large tent, either dancing, watching or just listening, you'll know that the Summer festival season is well and truly upon us. This month alone we have at least a dozen local festivals to choose from, which can't be bad can it?

With so much happening it's been particularly difficult to know where to start this month. We have plenty of gig reviews from all corners of the shires, we have news, views, interviews, features and updates. We take a look back at the incredible Swingamajig festival and look forward to just a few of this month's events.

Hopfest, The Jinney Ring Folk Festival, Upton Jazz, Mappfest and the Tenbury Music Festival are all in the mix, as well as the latest information on the Drunken Monkey and Worcester Music Festival. We also bring news from Worcester LitFest so, as usual, there really is something for everyone this month..

We say a final goodbye to Sid, Sand & Coz from the Boars Head in Kidderminster which sadly looks like it will have to close unless you fancy taking it on...? The last night on Saturday 10th June should be an occasion to remember with Stiff Joints, Citizen Fish, Malarkey & Flat Stanley.

On the subject of venue closures we at Slap found this proposal in a certain party's political manifesto - *'Music venues play a vital role in supporting the music industry's infrastructure and ensuring a healthy music industry continues in Britain. We will review extending the £1,000 pub relief business rates scheme to small music venues. And we will introduce an 'agent of change' principle in planning law, to ensure that new housing developments can coexist with existing music venues.'* - We couldn't agree more, the small independent venues are the lifeblood for emerging artists and grass roots performers. So whatever your political persuasion, this should be music to the ears for venue owners and musicians alike.

We are living in turbulent times, but I'm sure that we, as artists & musicians or lovers of the arts, 'have far more in common than that which divides us', to coin a phrase...

*In - fest - ed*



Front cover image by Joanne Winson created in fabric for "A taste of Worcestershire Open Studios" exhibition which runs from 22nd June to 12th July in The gallery, at Number 8, Pershore.

## Leading Lights in Ledbury

A star-studded line-up will be arriving in Ledbury to help celebrate the town's **21st Poetry Festival** including **Richard Dawkins**, former LibDem leader **Paddy Ashdown**, **Hugh Dennis** and **Sean Hughes** among the announced artists - taking part in talks, readings, workshops and a 'poetry jukebox'! There'll be over 135 events over 10 days from 30 June to 9 July at what's become the UK's premier celebration of verse - more info at [poetry-festival.co.uk](http://poetry-festival.co.uk)

## Worcester Groups Together

Something different planned for Saturday 22 July with new free arts event **Watch Out Worcester** aiming to promote an afternoon of 'quirky theatre, dance, music, spoken word and visual arts' at a variety of venues - the event is produced by charity **Dancefest** in conjunction with **The Hive**, **Three Choirs Festival**, **Severn Arts**, **Worcester City Art Gallery**, **Art Workshop**, **Worcslitfest** and other bodies - we'll try and check it out!

## Classical Concert at CCC

**Worcestershire CCC** have added something a little different to their programme of music events over the summer at their New Road ground with a two-hour '*Last Night Of The Proms*' classical concert taking place on Saturday 19 August - providing a more 'traditional' contrast to the existing bookings of **Ollie Murs** and the '*Concert Of Legends*' featuring **Billy Ocean** and the **Boomtown Rats**...

## The Grooving Crows

Award-winning Ledbury folk-rockers **Roving Crows** have invited the groundbreaking **Malvern RSK** dance company to accompany them on stage over the summer at venues such as **Lakefest** and **Artrix** in Bromsgrove after they featured on their latest album launch to great reviews! The troupe challenges stereotypes by giving all dancers a chance to perform - irrespective of their background, size or shape - great work guys! Full story on page 9.

## Elgar under Investigation

A member of Cleveland police force's specialist operations unit has claimed to have finally solved **Edward Elgar's** squiggly 'Dorabella' cipher which he jotted in the margin of a programme of music back in 1897! Inspector Mark Pitt says that by changing the figures into letters using a nine-digit code and then putting the results through a 'rotational dial' he gets a close match to the first five bars of the 'Enigma Variations' - here at SLAP we're quietly impressed by this fine use of constabulary resources...

## X-Factor work for Hereford Singer

Hereford singer **Lucia Nicole** landed a support slot for X-Factor winner **Sam Bailey**, courtesy of a recommendation from local BBC introducing stalwart Andrew Marston. The electro-popper has had an upward journey since launching onto the music scene a couple of years ago, releasing an EP and video single '*What I Gotta Do*' and appearing at **Lakefest** last year!

## No Doubt about Carnival

**Worcester Carnival** president **Alan Feeney** has said that this year's planned event on Saturday 1st July is '100 per cent on this year' with a final rallying call for everyone to get involved. Plans include a funfair, street theatre and a 'grand parade' through the city centre at 2pm - more at [worcester-carnival.co.uk](http://worcester-carnival.co.uk)

## Wychwood Festival? That Wood Festival!

**Wychwood Festival** has announced a bewildering variety of workshops also on offer at this year's family-friendly bash from June 2-4 including Pimp My Hat, wellie glamorising, willow-weaving, yoga, circus classes, belly dancing and many more to complement the main stage acts **Buzzcocks**, **OMD** and **The Levellers** - sounds interesting!

## Les Mis out at your Peril

Congratulations to Worcester youth theatre group **WODYS** for again winning the **Best Youth Production** award from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association with their sell-out 2016 performance of **Les Mis** - their next show will be *Whistle Down The Wind* featuring 57 performers aged 8 to 18 at the Swan Theatre from August 1-5 - break a leg chaps!

## British Music Bubble Bursting after Brexit

The music industry is calling for government help to stop a 'pop Brexit' after figures released for 2016 show that the share of British artists in the singles chart fell to the lowest on record - being overshadowed by US and Canadian artists with nearly half of the share - with French, Swedish and Danish artists also increasing in popularity. The BPI said that while UK acts were still performing well overseas - the next government 'must make the creative sector a high priority in Brexit negotiations' - we'll see...

## Rock and Rolls into 'Port

**Rock and Roll Party in the Park** and classic car rally is coming to Stourport Riverside Meadows on Sunday 4th June. The event is free for the local community to enjoy from 11am-6pm with live Rockabilly and rock and roll live music. Including music from **Colin Paul**, **Sharna Mae** and the **Mayhems**, **Hicksville bombers**, **heartbeats** and Rock and Roll DJ **Guy Roles**.

## Boars Head off to Pastures New

After a 6 year stint and a massive contribution to the arts in Kidderminster - from live music, festivals and exhibitions - the wonderful team at the **Boars Head** are closing the doors this month. **Sandra**, **Sid** and **Corina** - **SLAP** wish you all the best and hope you continue to push creative boundaries!

## Bewdley Festival Announcements

**Bewdley Festival** announces another two great acts for October's Thirtieth Anniversary line-up. After **Roger McGough**, **Little Machine** and the **Tom Robinson Band**, it is the women's turn to feature with dates for **Jenni Murray** and **Jan Ravens**.

On the evening of Monday October 9th, Radio 4's **Woman's Hour** presenter **Jenni Murray** presents '*A History of Britain in 21 Women*', a fascinating presentation on the achievements of twenty-one women whose lives enthrall, intrigue and inspire.

The festival closes on Saturday 15th October with a great combination of comedy and satire from that consummate impressionist **Jan Ravens**, bringing her brand new *Difficult Woman* show from the Edinburgh Festival.

Tickets available from [www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk](http://www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk) or in person from Bewdley Tourist Information Centre from Thursday June 1st.



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**Clik Clik** will be popping up this month at **Asparafest** in Evesham on the 3rd & 4th with the **Asparalympics**; crazy madcap 'It's a knockout' style races and general silliness for all the family. This is followed on the 17th by **Hopfest**, Bewdley's family music festival where I'll be running an arty making session and pop up exhibition in the Summer of Love theme, and look out for **The Peggys**, back to cheekily tickle your fancy and remove that festival grime!

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



## Pavement Art - Support for the NHS

A group of artists are creating exhibitions on pavements in support of the NHS. Artists from around Worcestershire and Herefordshire have come together with the idea of celebrating the great work that the NHS does and highlighting its important role in British society. This was thought up by Herefordshire based artist **Jaime Jackson**, who is interested in the idea of artists as activists, stimulating public discussion on a range of important issues, from a non-political viewpoint.

Jaime says, "My daughter was saved by the NHS. If we have to pay for services in the future because of privatisation which seems to be the case, I am not sure I will be able to afford to save her life again without selling the house we all live in, and many other people can't do that either."



The artists created pavement art in Hereford and Worcester on 20th and 27th May using various methods including chalk, photo collage, installation and text, even collecting people's thoughts and opinions to add to the temporary display: anything that is temporary and does not damage the pavements can be used!

**6 SLAP JUNE**

Shoppers stopped to talk to the artists while they were making their work, having conversations about their own experiences of the NHS and why it is important to them.

This group of artists have come together to create and organise legal exhibitions of artwork and make art installations and interventions to support the NHS and raise the public's awareness of the importance of protecting it. The group only advocates the showing of artwork in legal and approved public spaces. To find out more or to join the group, search for their Facebook page, **NHS Pavement Art**.

## Kidderminster Arts News

A massive shout out to the amazing **Boars Head** Kidderminster as they say goodbye to us all this month! After bringing the Kidderminster arts scene to the fore for the last 6 years, they are moving on. The last life drawing class in the BHG will take place on the 1st June. And the last gig with **Stiff Joints** takes place on 10th No doubt it'll be a sad loss for the town but hopefully they have sparked other creative folk to develop activities and events in the future. And don't forget **Kidderminster Arts Festival**, returning to the streets **12th-27th August** so keep a look out for what's happening on [kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk](http://kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk)



## True tales of beginnings and journeys

A new storytelling and visual art project is coming to Evesham library as part of **Evesham Festival of Words**. **True Tales** saw a series of storytelling workshops based on the themes of new beginnings and journeys, take place at places across Wychavon, including schools and local arts groups, and also includes stories from Worcestershire residents originally from Eastern Europe.



**Rhubarb Rhubarb Creatives** recorded the stories created from the workshops to inform a new visual art exhibition called 'Moving in: Moving On', running as part of the **Evesham Festival of Words** this month.

Artist **Caroline Tredwell** will be interpreting the stories and will create an inspirational contemporary installation based on the true stories from the people of Evesham young and old. The project is being produced by **Arts Uplift CIC** and **Vale of Evesham Network of Artists**.

**Jenny Davis**, Director of Arts Uplift CIC, said: "It's been fascinating and inspiring listening to all of the stories that have come from such a diverse range of people at the workshops we held. I'm excited to see how Caroline Tredwell will interpret them into an interesting and enlightening exhibition."

**True Tales** has been supported by **The Elmley Foundation**, **Wychavon District Council**, **Worcestershire County Council**, **Vale of Evesham Network of Artists** and **Evesham Festival of Words**. 'Moving in: Moving on' is at **Evesham Library** from 19 June to 8 July. Free entry.

**Evesham Festival of Words** has a diverse range of events taking place throughout the town from 30th June until 2nd July. [artsuplift.co.uk](http://artsuplift.co.uk) [eveshamfestivalofwords.org](http://eveshamfestivalofwords.org)



# Synthetic Landscapes

**Meadow Arts'** latest project is a vibrant exhibition of contemporary art at the magnificent **Weston Park**, on the Shropshire/Staffordshire border, and at **Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery's** new Music Hall venue. A cohort of exciting contemporary artists explore two radically different visions of manmade landscapes: on the one hand, the idealised landscaped garden superbly expressed at Weston Park, on the other, the emerging industrial landscape.



**Pablo Bronstein** and artist duo **Heather & Ivan Morison** will make new work at Weston Park as part of an ambitious group exhibition featuring work by artists who respond to the landscape in diverse ways; **David Bethell, Edward Chell, Ged Quinn, Dafna Talmor, Jasleen Kaur, Ryan Gander, Julian Opie, Hélène Muheim, Helen Maurer** and **Salvatore Arancio**. David Bethell has been commissioned to create a work for Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery. [meadowarts.org](http://meadowarts.org)

**4th June to 3th September - Weston Park. 24th June to 3th September - Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery**

## Dancefest

Worcestershire's fab dance based charity is offering opportunities to develop existing skills starting this month.



**Develop and Deepen - Improvers and Advanced Contemporary Classes** (18+). Classes are designed for experienced dancers to develop and deepen their contemporary dance practice, led by highly experienced dance practitioners from Dancefest and the University of Worcester. These sessions offer a chance to discover new ideas and techniques and will run at the **Riverside Dance Studio** every month. This month - 15th June

with **Janene Wyatt** and 6th July with **Paul Golz** who will teach a fast, flowing, somatically informed contemporary class with an emphasis on developing partner work Suitable for experienced dancers equivalent to second year degree level and above.

7.30-8.45pm £6.90/£5.90 concessions a week Riverside, University of Worcester, Hylton Road, St John's, WR2 5JN

Find out more and book at [dancefest.co.uk](http://dancefest.co.uk)

## Figaro at Elmslie House

**Saturday July 1st** sees **Elmslie House's** first foray into Opera and a production of *The Marriage of Figaro*, to be performed by **Felici**, an experienced company of singers and musicians, bringing classical, opera and musical theatre to audiences.

**Felici** are based in the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire regions and are returning to Elmslie with a specially adapted version of Figaro after their fantastic debut last April, which saw them perform a Gala Opera Night from which all profits were donated to the **National Kidney Federation** and **Macmillan**.

This time around their charitable endeavours will be going to support **Parkinson UK**.

Tickets are £25.00 and include a glass of bubbly. Doors will open at 6.30pm for the performance to commence at 7.00pm.

To buy tickets, please visit [www.elmsliehouse.co.uk](http://www.elmsliehouse.co.uk) or [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

## A taste of Worcestershire Open Studios

This month, Pershore's **Number 8** is offering a peek into what's on offer this summer when artists invite visitors to locations across the county for the third **Worcestershire Open Studios**.

The exhibition will showcase work by over 30 artists in a variety of media including painting, print-making, photography, textiles and smoke drawing.

All of the artists will be taking part in Worcestershire Open Studios over the August bank holiday weekend, providing a unique opportunity to venture into otherwise unseen creative spaces and talk directly to artists about their inspiration and creative processes. Co-organiser **Sally Morgan** says, "This is a great opportunity to get a glimpse at the fantastic range of artistic talent that's on offer this year, and you can pick up one of the first copies of this year's open studios guide."

"A taste of Worcestershire Open Studios" runs from 22 June to 12 July in The gallery, at Number 8, Pershore. For more information: [worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk](http://worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk) number8.org



Anne Guest



Joanne Winson



## The BHG (Boars Head Gallery) 2011-2017

Sometimes it is hard to put things into words, but as a gallery, its better to put it into pictures.

Thank you all so much and best wishes to Sid and Sandra on the future, you have not just opened a pub but created a community, showcased talent and brought friends together.

- Corina Harper (BHG Curator)



## worcester arts workshop

The history of the **Worcester Arts Workshop** goes back to 1976, but the history of the building on Samsome Street goes back to the Victorian period, where it was originally a brewery. Now the space may get a new lease of life, as **Arts Council England** and the **Bransford Trust** are supporting the centre to explore what the future may look like.

The research and development project sees the workshop work with an independent consultant to create a plan of what a reinvigorated and fully accessible space could look like. This will include conversations with the local community and architects to fully evaluate the feasibility of an arts centre that will make Worcester proud.

Everyone involved in Worcester Arts Workshop is passionate about maintaining the high quality of shows and courses that the venue produces each year. June sees the next half term of the centre's learning and participation programme, where participants can explore art forms in everything from pottery to life drawing.



One of our exciting courses is fused glass, taught by **Sarah Cotterill**, who is also the manager at the venue. Fused glass is the art of heating glass in a kiln – the colours and temperature of the kiln are used to create a myriad of effects to create stunning art. No one knows when fusing glass started, but there's evidence that it was used in Egypt during the rule of the Pharaohs, 4000 years ago!

If you would like to have a go at this ancient art form, but using much more modern methods than were available to Tutankhamun; more information can be found on our website, by popping in or giving us a call on 0190525053.



## Groundbreaking Malvern Dance Company teams up with Folk Supergroup Roving Crows

A groundbreaking dance company formed to challenge the accepted 'ballerina shape' is set to perform at a series of summer music festivals thanks to a collaboration with critically-acclaimed folk band **Roving Crows**.

**RSK Youth Dance Company**, founded by ballet school principal **Rebecca Sloan-Kirton**, was launched a year ago to give youngsters of all shapes, sizes and backgrounds the chance to dance. Six RSK dancers performed at the launch of the Crows' new album, *Bury Me Naked*, at **Gloucester Guildhall** last month.

They were so impressive, the band have now asked them to join them on the summer festival circuit. In August, they'll perform at **Lakefest** at Eastnor Castle - where they will share the bill with the likes of Imelda May, Wilko Johnson, Feeder and The Charlatans - and they will also appear at **Artrix** in Bromsgrove and **Evesham Arts Centre**.

"I'm so proud of our girls," said Rebecca, who runs **Ballet Malvern School of Dance** in Cowleigh Road, Malvern. "They did such a fantastic job at the Roving Crows' album launch, and the crowd absolutely loved them. It's something very different to what we normally do, and it was a challenge - which makes the success of the dances even more rewarding. We're absolutely thrilled the band has asked our dancers to perform with them again."

Rebecca set up **RSK** with **Royal Ballet School** alumni **Ali Clerici**. They staged a series of auditions last summer to find beautiful movers from the Midlands region and plan to tour their stereotype-busting show at world-famous arts festivals, including Edinburgh and Glasgow.



Rebecca added: "We're thrilled to give all great dancers the chance to dance, no matter what their background or size, and look forward to auditioning again soon to spread this opportunity even wider."

**Roving Crows** comprises **Paul, Caitlin Barrett, Loz Shaw** and **Tim Downes-Hall**. *Bury Me Naked* is their third album, and has impressed critics from **Songwriting Magazine** to **The Guardian**.

High-profile fans of the band include BBC Radio 2's Mike Harding and TV chatshow host Paul O'Grady and they have won numerous awards, including Best Live Act from **Spiral Earth**, Band of the Year in the **Fatea Music Awards** and Best Folk Act at the **Exposure Music Awards**.

For more information about **RSK Youth Dance Company**, call Rebecca on 07793 722319 or visit [www.balletmalvern.co.uk/rsk-youth-dance-company](http://www.balletmalvern.co.uk/rsk-youth-dance-company)

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## Burton

### The Cube, Malvern | 25th June

This one man show, which has received the highest praise from critics, tells the life story of one of the twentieth century's greatest and most iconic actors, the eponymous Richard Burton.

Leading Welsh actor **Rhodri Miles'** intense and intimate portrayal of Burton is in the form of a poetic monologue, with just enough humour to allow the audience to warm to the alcoholic womaniser.



Burton is showing at the Malvern Cube on the 25th June at 8pm. Tickets are available from The Cube website and Malvern Tourist Information Office.

## Artist Feature | Rebecca Lyes

"I have always lived and worked in Worcester, having spent much of my adult life working behind a bar, I was occasionally asked to design pub chalkboards. Many regulars would comment on my art and (as a thank you to them for their kind words) I would draw a caricature of them and put it up behind the bar. It was from doing this I discovered my passion for capturing personalities within an illustration. I used these cartoons to create a portfolio then quite a few years later went on to study art at Barbourne College of Art & Design.

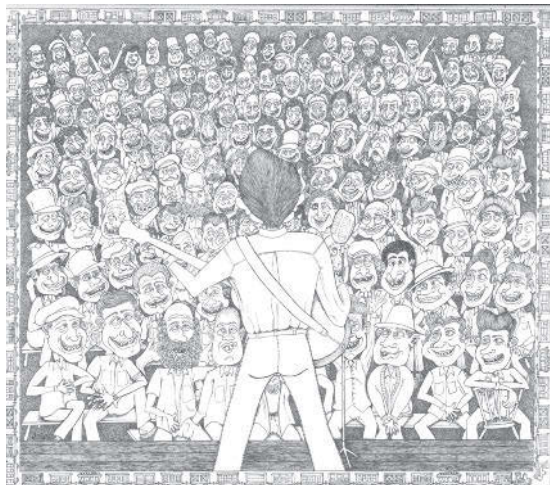
People are my motivation; I'm lucky enough to have met some fantastically weird and wonderful characters in my life. I find that learning about their lives and hearing funny stories inspires me to have a little doodle. I suppose my main aspiration would be to travel around the world, exploring personalities and capturing expressions.

I began designing cards just over 5 years ago. At first it was just to make a little extra money over the festive period, by selling Christmas cards from behind the bar (thank you Firefly) and although they were slightly rude, people seemed to like them and enquired if I'd done any others. So I got back to the doodle and designed some more, focusing on people's hobbies and pastimes. Over the last few years I have built up a little hoard of cards. I travel alongside my lovely friend Mary and her business Funk



Trunk Vintage, selling at fayres and pop up shops each season; a perfect fit around my work life. I see my cards as more of a hobby and have not yet mustered up the courage to get them in any shops or galleries, but I am always available for commissions.

Probably the biggest and most exciting project I have had the opportunity to work on would be a commission I received from Stylus Vinyl; a vinyl subscription business developed by Worcester's own Russ Cook designed to fulfil the 'ultimate listening experience.' The monthly subscribers receive a 12" album, a magazine including interviews with artists, producers, music lovers and people who have worked on the album, a bottle of wine which is selected to create the perfect atmosphere and tantalise your musical taste buds... and last but not least (and where my skills came into play) they commission a different artist each month to design a piece of art relating to the album.



My month was April. And my album was Johnny Cash At Folsom Prison. I feel incredibly lucky to have been given an artist who I have always enjoyed listening to which made it an absolute pleasure to work on. I'm currently working on a coloured version of my Johnny Cash piece and will be selling copies in the near future.

Although most of my art sits in a drawer a lot of the time, I do post the occasional doodle on Instagram where I also keep people updated about the next Funk Trunk Vintage event. We have one on Saturday 17th June, a pop up 'Summer Extravaganza' upstairs in the Firefly, Worcester. I'll be there peeking at people over a mountain of cards so come and say hello if you are out and about. I'm always welcome to new ideas and projects".



For cards and other commissions you can contact Becky on: [laughingismyhobby@hotmail.com](mailto:laughingismyhobby@hotmail.com)

Or check out: [instagram.com/rebecca\\_lyes/](https://www.instagram.com/rebecca_lyes/)

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# St Swithun's Church

St Swithun's on Church Street: you've seen it, it's there - behind the burger shack - but have you ever been inside?

Exactly forty years ago, St Swithun's closed its doors and became a time capsule from the 1700s. Putti floating in Gothic frames look down on the worn, warm oak box pews, lit by individual lamps. It is an exercise in good manners. The tower homes bells dating back to 1420. How incredible to have this echo from the past, a sound heard by people who lived with the fear that the Black Death would knock on their door and who had never heard of Henry VIII (or VII for that matter).

For some years an energetic local group, in partnership with a national heritage charity, have been working to make St Swithun's a popular arts and music venue. However, the fabric of the historic building is at risk. Water leaking through the roof slates is threatening the elegant interior.

The **Churches Conservation Trust** and the **Friends of St Swithun's** are planning not only to repair and conserve this magnificent building but to provide facilities that will transform the space into a city centre location for music and art with improved access. With innovative and exciting programming, "Sound and Art at St Swithun's" (aka SASS) will not only support the future of the building but also help the council's plans to enliven the city centre and grow its 'night economy'.

You may have seen or been to some of the events that have been staged at St Swithun's: sampler- cultureclash - a one-day festival exploring the idea of "playing" the building - bringing the site to life through its sounds, structures, textures, instruments,



texts and visuals - or the **Georgian Gin Night** – a partnership with **Clik Clik Collective** that transported visitors to the underground world of gin production in the 18th century.

Millions of pounds are needed to transform the site with £80,000 to be raised by September this year to support our bid to the **Heritage Lottery Fund**. The site team have lots of events planned for the summer - why not get involved?

Come and take another look. Let's make people notice St Swithun's.



Information on the project and the events programme can be found at [www.visitchurches.org.uk/StSwithuns](http://www.visitchurches.org.uk/StSwithuns)

Follow us on @theCCT and @WorcsStSwithuns



As mentioned in previous editions, **The Hop Project** is a contemporary art project conceived and produced by General Public artists **Elizabeth Rowe** and **Chris Poolman**, focusing on the historical migratory movements of hop-pickers.

We have followed this unusual project on tour throughout Herefordshire, Worcester, Birmingham and the Black Country since 2016. Now Worcestershire will be its home over the summer months at several venues from June until August before it heads off the MAC.

The project is funded by Arts Council England's Strategic Touring programme and began with the exploration of the social and political implications of hop production in the West Midlands. Historically, in the 19th and early 20th century, a mass-exodus from Birmingham and the Black Country used to occur every autumn as thousands of people travelled to Herefordshire and Worcestershire for the hop-picking season. The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities also have a long history of participating in agricultural work and were a significant source of flexible, short-term labour in the hop-picking industry at this time.

This all ended abruptly in the 1960s when the mechanisation of the hop industry brought an end to the need for large numbers of workers to support the annual harvest. Since this time, dramatic changes have taken place in agriculture, and the workplace. One of the outcomes of these developments is that today Herefordshire has an ever increasing Central European community travelling to the county to fulfill agricultural demands.

The project and accompanying exhibition doesn't seek to present a factual social history of hops; rather it offers an interpretation from a number of different angles and perspectives.



The exhibition includes hip-hop about hop picking, watercolours inspired by inner city graffiti, quilted beer label designs for fictional feminist ales, a map documenting the annual movements undertaken by a Romany Traveller family and a film by Polish artist **Alicja Rogalska**, alongside other exhibits and local museum archives.

- 6th June - July 1st Kidderminster Library
- 4th July - 27th July Droitwich Library
- 29th July - 25th August Tenbury Wells Library

## The Hill's Angels Brewers Arms, Malvern | April 22nd

The evening was presented in the main room, in a small cubby with unfair levels of acoustic feedback; I will start by saying, you cannot hold an artist responsible for where, they are offered a stage. **Sharon Hogan** on main vocal, **Laura Todd** on acoustic guitar and baritone backing vocal, and **Sarah Humphries** on the percussion and falsetto harmony vocal.

To be fair to them, they managed to squeeze in in a little self-made trap of musical dedication. And they ARE dedicated, you can tell.

Their set comprised of around half original and half well chosen covers for their pop and contemporary pull, which is the general idea. But there are a lot of acts out there that do that, and make a living out of mere imitation. Not these ladies, oh no, they are having way too much fun for that.

The constant glances and smiles they gave towards one another was endearing. Mainly because I see both sides of it. Firstly there was the internal band banter, or a single glance, that says "I noticed that, you plum." Then there is the other side of things, that lets you know these ladies are dear, dear friends, and actually dearly love this music they are making.

Their own compositions blew me away with good, solid pop sensibilities and lovely attention to detail on the hooks and chorus dynamics as well as the gentle lilting harmonies that filled the room with wistful peace and joy.

The content of the lyrics were mostly centred around relationships and describing difficulties, but most importantly, how to overcome them and not feel bad about having a life. Which is never a bad thing, and love is the first most popular subject to write about in the world.

Sticking to what they know well, breezing through the harmonies leaving the baritone vocal until the third bar, giving the hooks the lift they may not have appreciated. It's easy as an artist



to trap one's self into the constraints and conventions you aim for, but we have these things called happy accidents, and it demonstrates a great strong-willed humanity that these moments happen. It makes them visually appealing on more than the shallow senses.

As they stand, they use simple percussion sparingly, wisely and with good insistence and in the absence of bass guitar, fill out the sound like an amped power trio, only letting their voices be the dominant feature of the sound. Laura's acoustic work was very good indeed, Sarah's ever-determined percussion was at times adventurous, and Sharon's vocal was relatively commanding. All three are very conscious not to drown each other out.

One funny moment that sprang to mind was that Laura knew a couple of the audience, and they suddenly said at half time that they were gonna try and catch another band. Laura jokingly but steadfastly said, "No! you can't!" :D So they tossed a coin on it. Heads they stay, tails they go. It was heads; she made darn sure everyone in the venue knew about it. :D For the win, ladies, for the win. :)

All in all, a progressive but endearing act to see and hear, and it was a pleasure to finally catch up with them and see how they have progressed. They have much more to give, and plenty of mature but giggly fun for all. Go check them out next time you have the opportunity. You'll be pleasantly surprised.

*Lee (Mvt133) Smith.*

## Embroidered Bodies | Ashmolean Museum

This summer, Broadway Museum and Art Gallery is pleased to be displaying some of the amazing pieces of clothing that makes up the Ashmolean Museum's rich textiles collection. The Embroidered Bodies exhibition takes you on a journey from Eastern Europe through to Asia. Pieces on display include an eighteenth century Englishman's waistcoat through to a Japanese coat from the early twentieth century.

Aimée Payton, Eastern Art Administrator at the Ashmolean Museum and curator of the exhibition said: "We have some stunning embroideries in our stores, many of which have never been on display before so I am very excited to share these wonderful pieces with visitors to The Broadway Museum."

There are hundreds of different ways to make an embroidery stitch, with some techniques only found in specific countries. Stitches can be our first clue in revealing the story of a garment, and depict animals, flowers, people and patterns that can provide fascinating information about the wearer.



Embroidered Bodies tells many stories, giving an insight into how these beautifully stitched



garments would have been made and worn. Come and discover the threads of the tales within the stitches!

If you would like to know more about the exhibition, Aimée will be giving a talk on the items on display on 15th June at 7pm with the museum opening in the evening from 6.30pm. The talk costs £10 which includes a drink (please book in advance).

The exhibition runs until 10th September. Adults £5 (16+) Family £10. Children (5-15 years) £2 Under 5s free.

Broadway Museum and Art Gallery is also offering opportunities to hone your drawing skills with experienced professional local artist and teacher Doug Eyre. The weekly classes will give you an insight into many techniques and skills with plans to follow up his classes with further art skills during the year.

Tuesdays 10.15am—4.30pm £50 per person per day. All proceeds made from the classes go to support the Broadway Museum and Art Gallery For more information on either of these call 01386 859047 or email: [events@broadwaymuseum.org.uk](mailto:events@broadwaymuseum.org.uk)



# Suz Winspear

June has come at last – the most important month in the Worcestershire Spoken Word calendar! **Worcestershire LitFest** runs from **9th – 18th June**, bringing all sorts of word-based delights. Our brochure is available around town, or you can find details of events on the LitFest website and Facebook page. Admission to events is £5 unless otherwise stated.

It all starts on **Friday 9th June** with the final of the **Worcestershire Poet Laureate Competition** and the **Young Writers' Awards**. Yes, a new **Worcestershire Poet Laureate** will be taking over from me! Who will it be? Come and find out!

On **Saturday 10th** at 2pm **Holly Daffurn** *'The Natural Mumma'* is holding a workshop, talk and book-signing at **St Johns Library**. Then in the evening at 7pm, I'll be hosting **'A Night at the Museum III'** at the **Museum of Royal Worcester** (the Porcelain Museum) – poetry from **Matt Windle** and **Chloe Clarke**, and I'll be performing poems from my forthcoming pamphlet **The Aniseed Elite**. On **Sunday 11th** there is a writers' workshop at 2pm at **St Johns Library**, *'Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know'* about the creation of unsympathetic characters, hosted by **Amanda Bonnick** and **Polly Stretton**. Then at 7pm at the Hive there is an event called **'30 – 40 – 60'** with three fantastic poets, **Kathy Gee**, **Nina Lewis** and **Claire Walker** exploring womanhood in all its aspects.

**Monday 12th June** bring the **Worcester Writers' Circle** event *'Short Stories, Sketches and Scurrilous Scribblings'* at 7pm at **Café Bliss**, then on **Tuesday 13th** at 7.30pm at the Hive, we have *'The Murderer'* – Performed by **Clown Funeral** – a poetry-based theatre piece – it sounds strange and intriguing. (Tickets £8/£6 concessions)

On **Wednesday 14th** we have the **42 Festival Special** at **Drummonds Bar** – which this year features a performance by **The Antipoet** – an amazing and hilarious combination of comedy, poetry, music and fetish-wear – not to be missed!

**Thursday 15th** brings the **SpeakEasy Festival Special** at **Café Bliss** – assorted poets including the new **Poet Laureate**, and the featured performer is **Pete (The Temp) Bearder**.

There are two events to choose from on the evening of **Friday 16th**. At the **Hive** at 7pm we have a special guest – **Natalie Haynes**. I'm very excited about this – she's a regular on Radio 4, combining stand up comedy and Ancient Greek literature! Alternatively, at **Titania**, Security House, Barbourne Road, there's the **Quiz and Pizza Night** (admission £10, to include pizza).

On the morning of **Saturday 17th** at **Droitwich Spa Library**, there is a children's workshop *'WordPlay'* led by **Charley Barnes** and **Claire Walker** – ages 7-12. Sounds like fun! And at 7pm at the **Worcester Arts Workshop** there is *'London Pride'* – three poets from London, **Keleigh Wolf**, **Math Jones** and **Robert Cole** giving a special performance in Worcester!

The Festival ends on **Sunday 18th** at **Drummonds Bar** at 6pm, with the **Double Whammy Slammy** – the *Poetry and Flash Fiction* slams, the end of Festival party and the Big Fat Raffle draw! There are prizes to win and performances to relish (there might even be cake).

So that's a full nine days of poetry, prose, theatre, comedy and music for our delectation – I hope to see some of you there!



<b>Tuesday 6th – Saturday 10th:</b>	<b>Cider with Rosie</b> - The Swan Theatre (A LitFest & Fringe supported production)
<b>Friday 9th:</b>	<b>Launch Event Evening</b> - Worcester Racecourse - Doors open 6.30pm
<b>Saturday 10th:</b>	<b>Workshop - talk/book signing with Holly Daffurn</b> (The Natural Mumma) (Daytime - St John's library - 2pm until 4pm) <b>A Night at the Museum III</b> (Evening - The Museum of Royal Worcester) with Suz Winspear/Matt Windle and Worcs Poets Laureate old & new!
<b>Sunday 11th:</b>	<b>'Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know'</b> - Amanda Bonnick & Polly Stretton (A daytime writers workshop - St John's library - 2pm until 4pm) <b>30-40-60:</b> Kathy Gee, Nina Lewis & Claire Walker (Evening - The Hive)
<b>Monday 12th:</b>	<b>The Worcester Writers' Circle:</b> showcasing their best spoken words! (Evening - Café Bliss)
<b>Tuesday 13th:</b>	<b>'The Murderer'</b> by Clown Funeral - Theatre piece (Evening - The Hive studio space)
<b>Wednesday 14th:</b>	<b>'42' - The Sci-Fi/Gothic Festival Special</b> featuring: <b>The Antipoet</b> (Evening - Drummonds)
<b>Thursday 15th:</b>	<b>SPEAKEASY</b> - Open mic Festival Special featuring: <b>Pete The Temp</b> (Evening - Café Bliss)
<b>Friday 16th:</b>	<b>TV and Radio 4's Natalie Haynes</b> - Talk - Q&A and book signing (Evening - The Hive studio space) <b>The LitFest Quiz Nite</b> (Evening - Titania's offices, Barbourne Road)
<b>Saturday 17th:</b>	<b>Children's Wordplay Workshop</b> - Charley Barnes & Claire Walker (Daytime - St John's library - 10.30am - 12.30pm) <b>LONDON PRIDE:</b> Keleigh Wolf - Math Jones - Robert Cole Performance & 'imagined' poetry (Evening - Worcester Arts Workshop)
<b>Sunday 18th:</b>	<b>The Grand Finale/Poetry &amp; FF Slam Finals/BIG FAT RAFFLE draw!</b> (Evening - Drummonds)

All evening events: doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start unless otherwise specified

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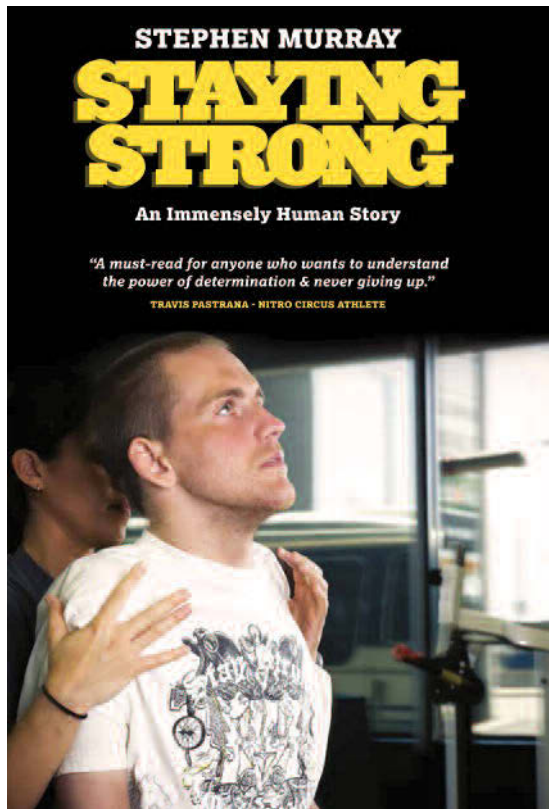
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## Stephen Murray | Staying Strong

*Staying Strong* is the autobiography of **Stephen Murray**, seven-time expert British champion and six-time UK National champion before the age of 16. During his professional BMX career, Murray was known for his double back flips, 360 back flips, and turndown back flips.



On Friday 22 June 2007, at the AST Dew Tour BMX Dirt Finals in Baltimore, Murray took a catastrophic fall attempting a double backflip on the final jump in the dirt section. He received career-ending injuries to his spinal cord and vertebrae and is paralyzed below the shoulders.

Stephen's story is a rollercoaster of emotions – his story doesn't have the ultimate happy ending whereby he is now able to walk, he is still paralysed but what it does detail is how to keep positive in the face of adversity, the power of staying mentally strong, living for your children and ultimately hope – he may walk again. This book deals with some very dark moments, the challenges faced every day as a father going through a divorce, a custody battle and whether he will ever ride a bike again – Stephen may have lost the use of his body but he has never lost his love or passion for BMX. It's this passion that pushes him through every day. His determination teaches us all that you are more than your disability and that although he has been taken to some dark places since his accident they are also mixed with some of the best days of his life.

Stephen has lived a completely crazy life, which includes rubbing shoulders with some famous faces from David Beckham to Pharrell Williams to Richard Branson and more – all of which have touched Stephen's life along the way and he now wants to share his highly inspiring 'no stone unturned' autobiography with the world.

The book begins with Stephen's last jump at the Dew Tour - an action sports competition developed as a joint venture between Live Nation & NBC sponsored by Mountain Dew back in 2005 - which was taking place in Baltimore in 2007 where he had his life changing accident. The story flashes back to his early life at home, growing up in Newcastle and pin points the moment he fell in love with BMX. With a nostalgic look back at the late 80's BMX racing scene and the influence it had on his riding, it then moves on to a change of scenery and life in Stratford, leaving racing behind and his evolution in becoming a dirt jumper. It documents his big move to California leaving behind his family at 18 and during his first year in competition achieving what some would say the impossible by winning gold at both the X-Games and Gravity Games. Stephen was focused on riding every day and taking him to the very top of the game – the determination to achieve and the drive to show his peers he was the real deal, to be on top and stay there. Then came the sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll lifestyle that Stephen got caught up in, hitting rock bottom – losing everything. Stephen was beginning to turn his life around through the positivity of riding his bike again when on the 22nd June 2007 that terrible accident happened and everything changed. Stephen's life takes another huge U-turn with a custody battle, divorce proceedings and living life with a severe injury becoming a reality.

After many years battling the California courts, he was finally able to move back to Britain with his two sons at the middle of last year. At the moment, his focus is on being a role-model, not only for action sports athletes throughout the world, but also for hundreds of thousands of quadriplegics and paraplegics and anyone who has felt that when they have hit rock bottom there is no way back – Stephen is here to let people know not to give up.

Off the back of his accident Stephen launched his own brand under the inspirational name of *Stay Strong* with the specific aim of delivering a positive message. The brand is now recognised globally due to Stephens's already strong legacy left from his days as the No.1 ranked BMXer in the world.



# Nick is 'Thrilled'

Kidderminster born Black Country musician **Nick J Townsend** has been written into an American apocalyptic thriller novel - *Reaping Sorrows*.

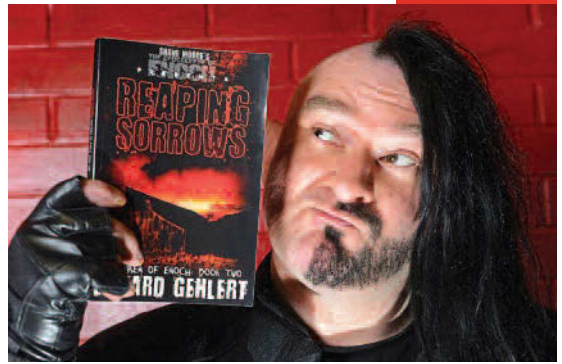
Author **Edward Gehlert** has included the **WEAK13** front-man in the second book of his *Children of Enoch* horror series, *Reaping Sorrows*, after meeting him on a film set in LA. The chance meeting came when Nick was filming his first documentary 'Clingfilm', with Edward claiming the vocalist's 'intense demeanour' drove him to create a character based on Nick for his second novel.

Edward said, "As I worked, I realised that my concept of this character was missing a certain depth. The character was missing some vital essence that prevented him from becoming real. That's when it hit me. I didn't want a character like Nick; I wanted Nick as a character."

The author reached out to the musician, who said he was taken aback by the offer. "At first I didn't know what to think," Nick said. "I was delighted that someone would want to use me as a character in a book, but it was also quite surreal. However, I read his first book and thought it was brilliant, so obviously I agreed."

The new book is a continuation of Edward's first title, *Dark Harvest*, which follows characters as they deal with the horrific aftermath of the 'Rapture', where demonic creatures roam the countryside and are bent on the extermination of mankind.

Edward said he was "thrilled" with Nick's response. "My perception of who Nick J Townsend is and how he would react in these horrific situations made me nervous as I sent off my



manuscript for him to read," he said. "Needless to say I was quite pleased with his reaction."

"In fact, what I had originally intended to be a small role grew until he became one of the central characters in the novel".

"Nick is fun to write and I am very humbled to have him in my little world of horror."

To make the character as close as he could to the real person, Edward tried to capture Nick's mannerisms and the way he spoke.

Nick added: "The first draft had Nick talking a bit more like a cockney than in my Black Country accent, but the end character is more like me than I thought it could have been. I don't want to spoil it for people but I'm now really excited for them to read the book and see if I survive to the end."

*Reaping Sorrows* is now available to buy in both paperback and as an eBook on Amazon.

## The Ring - Arts Programme

The Ring is a new two-year arts programme that will celebrate the 21 mile circle of Mid-Worcestershire's natural and historic waterways.

The route follows the Worcester and Birmingham Canals, the Droitwich Canals and the River Severn, flowing through the towns of Worcester and Droitwich and the countryside which surrounds them. International, regional and local artists will be exploring Worcestershire's urban and rural heritage; the people that live here, their dreams for the future and the ecology along the way to create a diverse and dynamic contemporary arts programme that will be a first in this part of the UK.

From June 2017 until September 2018; visitors will be invited to discover new art and performances in historic and picturesque locations inspired by the stories of on the Mid-Worcestershire Ring. These events and activities will focus around five artist commissions that people can explore on foot, by boat or bicycle.

**Cathy Mager**, Artistic Director said: "We're thrilled and inspired by the ideas of our growing collective of artists, performers, filmmakers and writers who are working in a variety of ways to reimagine the waterways of Worcestershire. The Ring's new events and commissions will flow through 21 miles of contrasting landscapes: from the calm and sleepy suburban canals to fast flowing tidal rivers, through to busy historic city centres and to picturesque countryside. We're delighted to be launching our new website to share the many opportunities coming up over the next year for artists and local people to join in and take part."

**Manda Graham**, Project Manager added: "Over the summer, we will post more information about how local people and artists can get involved in The Ring. Keep in touch by signing up for our e-news or following us on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram. We look forward to launching our website and social media to let people

know more about the programme of exciting arts events and activities we're planning."

The Ring is supported by the **Canal & River Trust**, as part of the charity's **Arts Council England** funded **Arts on the Waterways** programme, a collaborative arts programme situated on and inspired by Britain's waterways. The guardian of 2,000 miles of waterways across England and Wales, they also look after the waterways on the Mid-Worcestershire Ring. **Tim Eastop**, Executive Producer at the Canal & River Trust, is responsible for delivering Arts on the Waterways. He said: "Our canals are a network of cultural capillaries that have potential to carry ideas but also — literally — to carry new works of art to places where the arts traditionally haven't been able to reach. We are realising the tremendous opportunity for cultural activities on our waterways, thanks to support from Arts Council England and exciting, high calibre arts partners."

The website and social media for **The Ring** will be launched in mid-June '17. To receive regular updates sign up to The Ring e-news or for enquiries about the project, contact The Ring project team: [cathy.mager@canalrivertrust.org](mailto:cathy.mager@canalrivertrust.org) [manda.graham@canalrivertrust.org](mailto:manda.graham@canalrivertrust.org)



# Cenfora

The Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham | Sat 13th May

Life's full of little coincidences. A year ago, on Eurovision Song Contest night, I was at **The Iron Road** to see one of my favourite bands, Aramantus play an astounding gig with the amazing The Vim Dicta from Los Angeles.

A year later, again on Eurovision night, I'm back here – this time to see former **Aramantus** guitarist, **Jake Elwell's** new band **Cenfora**.

**Cenfora** (sen-four-ah) describe themselves as progressive metal, which always sets a little warning light off in my brain, as some sections of the genre I find unlistenable.

Progressive metal this may have been billed as and some of the time signatures would have taken a mathematician to work out, but my goodness this set rocked like stink from the first note of the ambient intro to the last notes of the thunderous finale. There were no ten-minute pointless meanderings either, packing five concise but beautifully crafted self-penned tracks and a respectful but very modern interpretation of Kansas' "Carry On My Wayward Son" into a bare thirty minutes. I can see immediately why they got through their first Metal To The Masses heat, despite it being their debut gig – it sounds like they've been together for a very long time.

They seem to have avoided the Achilles' heel of so many bands by recruiting a wonderful singer in **Katie King**, who not only looks as if she's having a whale of a time onstage, but belts out the vocals with precision and power – one note, held absolutely in pitch for several bars has me sympathetically gasping for air. She's also sporting the rock 'n roll accessory of the year in the form of a large bustle (and when I say large I mean not so much "Does my bum look big in this?" more like "Can I get through the doorway?"). The thing lights up like a firefly as she hits the first number – it is both highly amusing and brilliantly judged.

The structure of the tracks demands a rhythm section that's fully on its toes and in **Mitchell Jay Barlow** on drums – bearing a strong and slightly disconcerting resemblance to actor Michael Cera – and **Kyle Jones** on bass, they've got exactly that. Superb work from both of them. Jones' control in the upper registers is particularly impressive.

But it's the performance of Elwell himself that's the most intriguing. He's not what you'd call a conservative guitarist and he physically throws himself into his playing, hair flailing in his wake, but what we get through the speakers tonight is a musical masterclass in precision and restraint. Yes, he's bewilderingly fast at times, with a wonderful bidextral technique but there's not a note wasted or surplus – the riffs are strong, complex and instantly engaging and the solos fluent and absolutely relevant to the dynamic of the track. Outstanding playing.

16 SLAP JUNE



They receive a wonderful reception, fully deserved, from an audience who are there primarily to see music played along far heavier lines.

I hurry off to my next gig, frightening the life out of a couple turning a corner as I belt out the Kansas at full volume - the power of music, eh? See this band and you'll be doing the same...

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

Geoffrey Head



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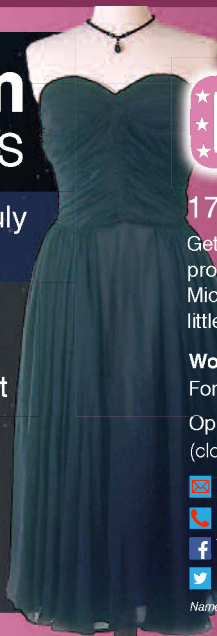
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## Jinney Ring Folk Festival Saturday 24th June

This well established festival returns again this year, in the lovely setting of the **Jinney Ring** grounds. On the menu will be fine festival fayre, both the excellent home produced food and a wide choice of ales and ciders, in addition to the restaurant overlooking the pools. Ducks, of course, though not for eating, will no doubt be parading around enjoying the attention and any accidental food spillage. An entertaining line up that includes **The Strays** (a sort of Imelda May meets rockabilly), I'm looking forward to this one.



Also on the line up - well known Malvern artist **Tyler Massey**; **Future Set**, an acoustic folk quintet, with blues and roots influences; **Mumbo Jumbo**, renowned acoustic trio, producing eclectic music that will bring a smile to your face, and just maybe, the odd tear; **Haunted Souls**, a folk and country acoustic band, bringing their original music to the stage; **Ruth Theodore**, an artist that has received wide acclaim for both her albums and live performances; the **Roving Crows**, need little introduction, regular visitors to **The Jinney Ring** with their Celtic folk/rock fusion, and no doubt will be dipping in to their new album; All this and headlined by **Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakanan**, a multiple award winning duo, the very pinnacle of folk music.

*"This will be our fourth folk festival and once again, we've put together a great line up. It's a fantastic opportunity for people to see these acts on their doorstep and away from the bigger festivals,"* said Jinney Ring owner **Amanda Sunter**.

The festival also includes an intimate gig on Friday, June 23 by traditional folk singer and multi-instrumentalist **Steve Turner**



which will be followed by an open mic session. The performances the following day run from midday until 11pm.

Ask yourself this: in these times of Brexit, electioneering, Trumpton diktats, sabre rattling and conflict, where else would you want to be but to spend a little time out in the peace and tranquillity of the Jinney Ring, whilst enjoying this finest of folk festivals?



Tickets are £22/£10 under 14, in advance  
inc. camping £29.50/£15 in advance (£35 for the full weekend)  
Tickets will also be available on the gate

## Gaz Brookfield & The Company of Thieves The Marris Bar | Sunday 2nd July

Following the release of his critically acclaimed fifth studio album, *I Know My Place*, **Gaz Brookfield** returns to Marr's Bar, but this time with a rare outing of his band, **The Company of Thieves**.

This super group of musicians comprises of mandolin player, **Nick Parker**, (of **Nick Parker and the False Alarms**), guitarist, Chris Webb, (well established solo acoustic musician from Bristol), **Leks Wood**, (drummer from post hardcore icons, **Devil Sold his Soul**), **Jon Buckett**, (legendary keyboard player, and producer), **Tom Granville**, (bass player from **Nick Parker and the False Alarms**, and **Flipron**), and of course, Gaz's long time cohort, **Ben Wain** on fiddle.

This gig also happens to land very close to Gaz's birthday, so why not pop along to celebrate the inevitable passing of time, by drinking, singing, and drinking.

Cost: £8 in advance £10 on the door

Tickets: <https://www.marrisbar.co.uk>





# Evesham Festival of Words

**Fri 30th June  
until  
Sun 2nd July**  
[eveshamfestivalofwords.org](http://eveshamfestivalofwords.org)



## **Bake off judge headlines local litfest!**

Prue Leith will formally open the main weekend of events at Evesham Festival of Words on Friday 30th June. 'An Evening With Prue Leith', her candid, entertaining and amusing reflection on a very interesting career which has taken her all over the world and into some incredible work, which includes: running a cookery school, journalism, crafting many of her own cookery books, writing seven successful romantic novels and, more recently, her appointment to one of the nation's favourite programmes, The Great British Bake off.



## **Other Festival contributors include:**

**Ian McMillan & Tony Husband**

*Presenting 'A Carton History of Here!'*

**Rachel Kelly**

*The healing power of poetry*



**Susan Lewis**

*Sunday Times best-selling author*

**Richard O'Neill**

*Children's author*



**John Simpson**

*The Word Detective*

**Philip Douch & Suzie Latham**

*An evening of stories and songs*



**The main Festival weekend closes on Sunday 2nd July when David Bramwell and Jo Keeling present 'The Odditorium', tales of tricksters, eccentrics, deviants and inventors who have changed the world in which we live.**

## **Don't cut the fringe!**

*Evesham Festival of Words has a magnificent fringe, which has already opened and is jam-packed throughout the year with: writers' workshops, seminars, concerts, readings and poetry, all right on Evesham's doorstep and dripping with entertainment, interest and amusement right up until Christmas!*

**For the full programme, Festival information and online ticket sales visit  
[www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org](http://www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org)**

## Martin Harley St Swithuns, Worcester | 30th April

I had been fortunate to see Martin with Daniel Kimbro in Bristol a few weeks back so the opportunity to hear him perform on home territory was impossible to ignore. **St Swithuns Hall** presents a tired picture with a post war décor setting but it still managed to sound great as Martin's fans enjoyed and responded to the raconteur stories woven between the scintillating songs that included his epic Australian journey; baking pancakes in a nunnery, scaling buildings in Woking and undergoing his psychotropic swimming experience. It was an evening that was always going to contain an element of fun whilst producing some fabulous songs and finger picking fantasia. A session that was stripped down to the basics with one acoustic guitar, a Weissenborn lap guitar and a Hawaiian shirt (no he wasn't that 'stripped down').

The cradled Weissenborn was ironed into service to open up *'Cardboard King'* and the excellent *'One Horse Town'* before the guitar delivered the lovely *'Post Card From Hamburg'* with Martins warm mid roast Colombian Coffee vocals. A home-made capo of 6" nail, rubber tubing and knicker elastic was clamped to the thick hollow neck of the Weiss for Martin to finger pick and slide through a superb version of Muddy's *'Can't be Satisfied'*. With serious blues in mind, that rotund neck and stout body were explored and exploited to the full for Martin's stunning *'Blues at My Window'*. Look for it on the Tube, it is full of the spirit of 'misery, loss and despair', an absolute requisite for Martin to relate the blues.



Martin kick started Richard Thompson's legendary machine an ode to a mythical beast and its irascible rider - How I would loved to have sat across a *'Vincent Black Lightning'* with a red haired goddess on the pillow. The guitar notes babbled like falling rain on a tin roof, certainly not the slow throb of a big V twin, but a beautiful picture. It could only end in *'Trouble'* with its whiff of seamy, wet, Paris streets.

Turning to an altogether different desire, I'd rather have a *'Chocolate Jesus'*. How could you resist worshipping such a heavenly fare as the tasty delight is extracted from the raw beans of Tom Waits? Martin led the sermon with his 85% cocoa with hint of vanilla voice to tempt us. The clock was running but there was time enough for a little more as the sparkling vintage Bollinger of *'Del Mundo'*, (inspired by that clamber onto the Woking swimming pool roof?) toasted the closing song. The Weissenborn lay across Martin's lap, ready for the assault as he borrowed Blind Willie Johnson's gospel *'Nobody's Fault But Mine'*, a gut wrenching passionate delivery with Martin striking hard across the strings as the steel slide worked over the neck - absolutely brilliant. This will stand as an unforgettable evening of virtuoso acoustic blues with **Martin Harley**.

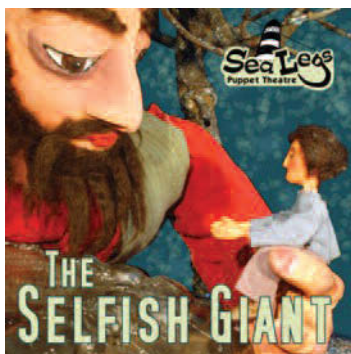
Graham Munn

## The Selfish Giant The Cube, Malvern | 26th June

Since building a wall to keep the children out of his garden, the only visitors the Selfish Giant gets are Lady Snow and her friends.

One morning he hears the most beautiful music coming from his bedroom window and is delighted with the sight that greets him...

Bringing the ancient magic of the puppet theatre to **Malvern Cube**, **Rob Ashman** of **Sealegs Puppet Theatre Company**, brings to life Oscar Wilde's enchanting story of **The Selfish Giant** with beautifully crafted puppets, some lovely and original music, and a cleverly constructed steel-sculpted garden.



This magical show is suitable for ages 3 to adult and lasts approximately 45 minutes. At its conclusion, all are given the invitation to meet the puppets during a brief post-show chat.

*The Selfish Giant* is showing at **Malvern Cube** on Sunday 25th June at 2.30. Tickets are available from The Cube website.

## LINTON FESTIVAL

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WILLE & THE BANDITS



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**Slim Chance**  
**HENRIK**  
FREISCHLADER



**Hayseed Dixie**  
**Graianne Duffy**  
**Bernie Marsden**  
(acoustic set)



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**Pierce Brothers, Slowburner,**  
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## The Bands are Not What They Seem Mappfest 2017 | The Biggest One

A blue velvet curtain slides aside and a giant lumbers across a chequered floor. He looks up and mutters 'It's happening again. . . it's happening again!' Yes, it's time for Mappfest 2017, and the organisers are running out of superlatives to describe this mighty beast. The Big One . . . the Bigger One . . . now, the Biggest One! Well, that may yet prove to be a premature descriptive as next year's **Mappfest** is sure to be . . . what? Larger? Huger? More enormous? Happily, that's a grammatical conundrum for the future as this year, the Biggest One is going to be . . . well, ginormous!

For starters there will be four, yes four, stages. Including an acoustic stage and the **Malvern Rocks** stage with a range of performers that include **Babajack**, **Leader of Down**, **Dubvocaliza**, **Chevy Chase Stole My Wife**, **Aramantus**, **Dogs of Santorini**, **Sundara**, **Jüpitronz**, **Hills Angels**, **Skewwhiff**, **Amorphica**, **Tone Tanner**, **Martin Thorne**, **Nuns of the Tundra**, **Line Runners**, **Ruben Seabright**, **Slack Granny**, **Stealth**, the **Whipjacks**, **Massive Head Trauma** . . . the list goes on and on . . . and on! Well, as you will recall, it is the biggest.



It will be good to see **Babajack** back on home turf while headliners **Leader of Down** promise some colossal rock. The band was formed by Motorhead's guitarist, Wurzel and continued without him after his death in 2011.

Then there are the other things: Food stalls, bars, merchandise, bouncy castles, bungee swings and bundles of additional stuff . . . not forgetting the flypast by the Battle of Britain Flight's Lancaster bomber at 1.25pm on the Sunday. A right proper day out for the music-loving (and aviation enthusiast) Slap Mag reader. Mappfest 2017, the Biggest One will take place on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June on Malvern Link common, a short walk from the train station in the Link. Walking is probably the best way of getting to



the festival as parking around the common will be restricted. The history of Mappfest is well-known; a little party with a few bands in **Andy Mapp's** courtyard that grew and grew into the leviathan it is today. And along the way it's been organised and run by an assorted collection of musicians, landlords, sound operators, scaffolders, photographers, builders and carpenters who have selflessly given time to make the event happen. While all the time, raising thousands of pounds for charity. Acorns Children's Hospice, St Richard's Hospice and Malvern Community Action being the beneficiaries of the years' efforts. And what an effort. An effort that is totally worth it.



This year has seen the most tumultuous political scene in decades with the whole of society divided along in / out lines while a week after this goes to press we will have an election that will either see a record victory by the incumbent party or the most dramatic win from behind in history. Whatever our political leanings, we in Malvern know there is one thing that brings us all together. Music. And that is what **Mappfest** delivers; lots and lots of music. So, this summer, put your differences aside and be sure to be part of the Biggest One (yet). Mappfest: a damn fine festival. For more information see the Mappfest website – [mappfest.co.uk](http://mappfest.co.uk) R.T. Photography by Julie-Anne Goode

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# Upton Jazz Festival

## Upton-upon-Severn | June 22-25

This year's Festival has a star-studded line-up which includes the world-famous **Jive Aces**, dance legends **The Temperance Seven** and the sublime **Craig Milverton Trio** along with gipsy jazz aficionado **Remi Harris**.



Remi Harris

They are joined by **Mumbo Jumbo**, **La Vie En Rose**, **Moscow Drug Club** and back by popular demand the **Swing Commanders** and **Strumpit**. An international contingent counts **Bent Persson**, from Sweden, and Switzerland's **Thomas Winteler** among its number, along with **The Revivalists Jazz Band** from the Netherlands and many others.

The festival, which has featured on ITV's Good Morning Britain and is now in its 32nd year, takes place in picturesque Upton-upon-Severn in Worcestershire.



The Revivalists Jazz Band

Thousands of jazz hands flock to the riverside town to soak up four days of world-class jazz, craft ales and ciders and artisan food served by dozens of stallholders. A festival village springs up on the town's sports field, with camping facilities, a festival bar and music venues, including a dance marquee where swing and jive lessons will take place all weekend.

There's also the Best of Young Jazz programme, which celebrates the rising stars of the jazz world and last year featured on Channel 4's Sunday Breakfast.

**Rachel Hayward**, musical director, said: "This year's line-up is a cracker. From European to gipsy jazz, hot club to traditional, New Orleans to jive and swing, there's a genre to suit everyone. We're looking forward to four days of incredible music and sunshine to lead us into summer and we can't wait to welcome you all."

For up to date ticket information, to book, and for the full line-up including video footage of previous festivals, visit [www.uptonjazz.co.uk](http://www.uptonjazz.co.uk)



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Jenny Hallam with  
Howard James Kenny  
Saturday 24th June



Except for Opera, doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start. Advance Tickets £8, on the Door £10  
Tickets available from [www.elmsliehouse.co.uk](http://www.elmsliehouse.co.uk)  
Eventbrite, Carnival Records & Malvern TIC, both on Church Street, Malvern.



Deborah Rose &  
Mari Randle  
Saturday 29th July



## Preview

### Teddy Matthews | Hold On The Rythm Release Date – 23rd June 2017

**Teddy Matthews** is a singer songwriter from Worcestershire who draws his inspiration from artists such as Ben Howard, Bon Iver and Alt J, Teddy's unique voice and lyrics combine the grit and edge of the blues, with the vocal melodies normally associated with folk and pop music.

From the emotionally ravishing opening vocals in previous track *Love* too his latest release *Hold On The Rythm* you can sense the progression from solo artist to **Teddy Matthews** the band. Keeping distinct and wholly modern vocals accompanied by acoustic guitar. But also adding layers of percussion enabling him to experiment with different techniques. This was an advantage that came with working along side other musicians. It turned out to be a progression that came naturally over the past six months adding drums, bass, guitar and backing vocals to his more recent arrangements.



Teddy has worked closely with producer **Gavin Monaghan** at Magic Garden Studios (Editors, Ocean Colour Scene, Robert Plant) on his new four track EP release *Hold On The Rythm* (Available 23rd June 2017) introducing the emotional heart wrenching track *Renna* and the experimental but mind blowing title track *Hold On The Rythm*. alongside hook laden acoustic guitar tracks *Worry*, and *Love*, which was BBC Introducing Record of the Week at the beginning of 2017 a platform supporting the very best in new music across the region earning The Teddy Matthews Band a spot at the prestigious Hay On Wye Literary, music and arts festival as part of a special one off session for BBC introducing later this month.

Busy with his forthcoming release as well as supporting and headlining gigs around the country 2017 is set to be a busy year for Teddy Matthews.

[soundcloud.com/teddy-matthews](https://soundcloud.com/teddy-matthews)  
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Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June  
Seventh Year Celebrating Live Local Music



### 2017 dress theme - The Sixties - The SUMMER OF LOVE Revisited

Sunjay - Arcadia Roots - Other Covers Trio - Beatles: Magical History Tour - The Humdrum Express - Malar - Matahari - Plastic Scene  
The Bug Club - Sweet Talk - Ross Angeles - Dharma Burns - Phones - Mayfly - Ead Wood - Elisha Green - Swallows - Mind The Gap!  
Festive Voices Choir - Molly Mallinson - Melody Blue - Two's Company - Tom Woodcock - Molly Hipkiss - Danny Bold - MANY MORE!  
Youth Music from Bewdley Youth Festival - Spoken Word Tent - Yoga - Drum Workshops - Circus Skills - Kid's Activities  
Great food and drink from local suppliers - Klik Klik Collective - Helter Skelter - Stalls - The Return of THE MOTHERSHIP DANCE TENT

Details and Tickets at [www.hopfest.co.uk](http://www.hopfest.co.uk) - Hopleys Camp Site, Bewdley, Worcs, DY12 2QL



# Hopfest Family Music Festival

## Friday 16th & Saturday 17th June

Bewdley's own music festival is celebrating its seventh consecutive year this June at **Hopleys Camping** site on the Cleobury road.

The family orientated event has grown year on year and now has four stages featuring live music, spoken word performances, workshops and children's activities from midday to midnight on the Saturday and live music in the main marquee from 6:00 pm until midnight on the Friday evening.

The festival has a fancy dress theme every year and this year it's the sixties! One of the organisers, **Peter Barnett**, explains, "Last year's theme was "Out of this World" and people showed great innovation with their Alien costumes. This year, with 2017 marking the 50th anniversary of The Summer of Love, the release of Sgt. Pepper and other notable musical landmarks, the theme had to be "The Sixties – The Summer of Love Revisited" and we anticipate a lot of fun with this, and we are asking all of the acts to include a sixties song in their set".



He continued, "The concept of Hopfest from the first incarnation in 2011 has been to showcase the remarkable wealth of talent that exists in the local area and to provide opportunities for young musicians to perform on the same stages as the more established acts.

Last year, through **Bewdley Youth Festival**, we had over 80 young people from Wyre Forest and across Worcestershire performing at the festival as solos artists, members of bands or as part of the world drumming orchestra that was assembled with Bewdley School and Sixth Form Centre.

## Chris Holmes Mean Man (W.A.S.P)

### Marrs Bar | Thursday, June 22

**Christopher John Holmes**, born June 23, 1958 in Glendale, California, is a heavy metal guitarist and songwriter who grew up in La Canada, California. Holmes started his musical career in the Pasadena, California area in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He is best known as the lead guitarist of heavy-metal band **W.A.S.P**. Together with Blackie Lawless and Randy Piper, he was one of the founding members of the band. Holmes was a member of W.A.S.P. first from 1982 to 1990, and again from 1996 to 2002.

Chris released his first solo album *Nothing to Lose* in 2012 and decided to produce, manage and distribute it himself along with his wife Catherine Sarah Holmes. After the success of his first album, Chris released his second solo album, *Shitting Bricks* in 2015 and played his first concert in Nantes, France with his new band '**Mean Man**' which consists of **Thomas Cesario** Guitar, **Pascal Bei** Bass and **Folkert Beukers** on the drums. In Studio



This year will be no exception and our line-up includes tremendous acts such as **Sunjay**, **Arcadia Roots**, **The Humdrum Express**, the return of the **Mothership** and a special Beatles feature; **The Magical History Tour**. And we are looking forward to a special collaboration between the local jazz group **Matahari** and **Bewdley School** featuring some very talented young musicians and singers with some spine tingling music.

Our food area this year features great local cooking from **Sticky Figs**, **The Hop Pole** and **Loco Lobo Tex Mex**.

Activities for children include **Helter Skelter** with circus workshops and their famous **Bubbleology**, creative sessions with **Clík Clík Collective** and art and readings in the **Chill Out** tent organised by **Betti Moretti**.

Tickets are cheaper in advance and can be bought on line from [www.hopfest.co.uk](http://www.hopfest.co.uk) or from the Camp Site reception. The Friday night is free to ticket holders or £5 per person if you only are attending that event.

So Kaftans, Beads, Bells and Flares at the ready!

[hopfest.co.uk](http://hopfest.co.uk) – facebook @hopfestmusic



..... currently for the new album who will be release in 2018. Support comes from **Alexa De Strange**.

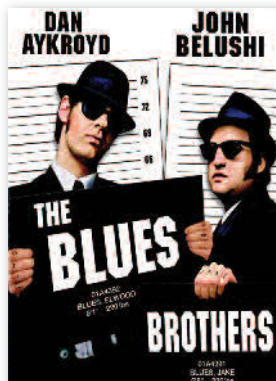
Tickets: £10 at [www.wegotickets.com/event/401667](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/401667)



## Blues Brothers & Black Cat Bone Worcester Brewing Company | June 24th

Dust off your dancing shoes and join the **Worcester Brewing Company** for a night of live blues music and cult cinema under the railway arches.

From 5pm on **Saturday June 24th** the brewery is hosting a film night that will take viewers and drinkers on a journey of redemption - maybe. For one night only, the cult-classic **Blues Brothers** (John Landis, 1980) will be screened at the brewery under the railway arches on Cherry Tree Walk at 5.45pm and those looking for a unique viewing experience are in for a treat. The screening will be followed by a performance by Worcester's finest blues' exponents **Black Cat Bone**.



Landis' American musical crime comedy follows paroled convict Jake and his brother Elwood, who set out on "a mission from God" to save the Catholic orphanage in which they were raised.

They decide to reunite their R&B band and organise a performance to earn the \$5,000 needed - but all does not go to plan and along the way the duo are targeted by a destructive "mystery woman", Neo-Nazis, and a country and western band—all while being pursued by the police.



Andy Burton

Before and during the screening, guests are invited to sup on some of Worcester's finest real ales, brewed on the premises and poured straight from the barrel - and there will even be some 'soul food' on offer to keep your energy levels up.

There is no charge for entry to the event, but donations are appreciated to cover overhead costs.

Whether you're new to the film or a hardcore fan, you're sure to enjoy the live performance from blues **band Black Cat Bone**, who will be wowing the crowds from around 8.30 with music inspired by the film after the screening.

So what are you waiting for? Shine up your shoes and pull on your best suit. We've got a full tank of gas, half a pack of cigarettes, it's dark, and we're wearing sunglasses.

**The Worcester Brewing Company** can be found at number 7, Cherry Tree Walk and seating in this intimate and unusual space is limited, so guests are advised to get there early - and to wrap up warm.

*Imogen Buller*

## Tenbury Music festival | June 17th

**Tenbury Music festival** will be returning for its third year on **June 17th**. The first event was organised by a couple of music lovers who wanted to combine a music festival with raising funds for worthy causes, resulting in them donating £3,000 to the **Teenage Cancer Trust** just last year. This year the charity will again be Teenage Cancer Trust, the only UK charity dedicated to improving the quality of life and chances of survival for young people with cancer aged between 13 and 24.



With 2016 being a hard festival to follow, the organisers have pulled out all the stops to make this year's event even better. With the line up boasting **Mike Sanchez** and his band as headliners and local talents **Arcadia Roots** and **Abi K & The Roadsters** backing him up, the main stage will be hosting a powerful array of talent to sink your teeth into. There will also be an acoustic stage, beer tent and cocktail bar located in the back of an old surfing VW. And, if you want something more hands on, there are craft and poetry workshops with even the Grapevine project setting up shop to help support and develop local young musicians. This may only be a one day event but it's not to be missed out on.

Tickets are £20/£25 adults & £10/£12 12-17 yr olds under 12 Free

Available from Tenbury Tourist Information Centre. More info at: [www.tenburymusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.tenburymusicfestival.co.uk)

*Photography: Graham Munn*



# The Drunken Monkey Rock Festival

## Upton-upon-Severn | August 4-6

A rock icon's headline-grabbing return to the stage. A storming line-up that also showcases hot-tipped up and comers. Oh and a mind-blowing Augmented Reality Mobile App that will bring publicity material to life... it's hard to know where to start with the ground-shaking **The Drunken Monkey Rock Festival**.

Well first off, it's for a stonking good cause, raising funds for the **Midlands Air Ambulance Charity**, and it rocks.

Launched in 2014 in memory of local man Ian Downton, the Festival has grown every year and the 2017 blast will be the best yet. More than 50 bands will belt out mighty music ranging from heavy metal to mellow-out sounds (check out the full line up at [www.drunkenmonkeyrockfest.co.uk](http://www.drunkenmonkeyrockfest.co.uk)).

Main stage players include **Soul Stripper**, **Guns 2 Roses**, **Troyen**, and of course the cult collective **Grim Reaper**, whose frontman **Steve Grimm** will definitely get a mega reception.



The singer of the legendary band, which sprang up in Droitwich, is currently learning to walk again after losing his leg following a foot infection picked up during the international *Walking in the Shadows* album tour.

"I'm really looking forward to the Festival," says Steve who has been stunned by fans' support and fund-raising to cover the \$25k Ecuador hospital bill. "I will reward everyone by getting back on stage... and walking round like I had two legs!"

The **Tower** stage spotlights striking new talent, including **South African Gage**, who are coming over specially and Worcester's *Population:7*. "I'll be gobsmacked if they're not signed up very soon," says stage lead **Chris Harvey**.



And that amazing AR app? It's the brainchild of creative, rock loving **Mick Hurst** at Evesham-based **Areca Design**.

Check it out on the website now and book your Festival tickets online at [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com)

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## Review

# Chris Difford | Vinny Peculiar

## The Cube, Malvern | 13th May

In recent times **The Cube** in Malvern has become renowned for a series of high profile gigs from **Nigel Clark** and **Mark Morris** (Dodgy and Bluetones respectively) to folk award winner **Jim Moray**, as well as previously playing host to the likes of **Dreadzone**, **3 Daft Monkeys**, **Wille & The Bandits** and more. But, despite the quality of the aforementioned names, enticing **Chris Difford** to Malvern can be considered a major coup. Whether as a founder member and co-songwriter of **Squeeze** or solo, Difford can really only be described as one of the best and most engaging songwriters this country has produced.

Understandably, the intimate venue was at capacity for a Difford's solo acoustic turn and prior to the main attraction with no slouch in the songwriting department himself, **Vinny Peculiar** was charged with warming an expectant audience. Accompanied by **Rob Steadman** on piano and his own acoustic, Peculiar opened with a spoken monologue in the form of *Hairdresser*, raising titters in the audience as he regales in horror trips to the barber, whilst ironically flicking at his fringe. From there strummed guitars and tinkered pop hooks frame the quirky folk-pop of *A Vision*, Steadman providing subtle yet effective harmonies, complimenting Peculiar's half sung, half spoken drawl. *Tales of an English Village* and bonding over a love of music with *The Singing Schoolteacher* (Clifford T. Ward) follow and then a trip to *Silver Meadows* and Vinny's forthcoming musical for The Institution and the *Saviour Of Challenging Behaviour*, before bringing his short, yet fully formed set to a close with the addictive *Pop Music*, *Football & Girls* and the *Parlour Flames* psych-tinged ode to *Lonely Girls & Horses*, winning a number of new converts along the way.

Following a short break (and quick trip to the bar), **Chris Difford** took to the stage, directing traffic with quick quips as the audience



scrambled back to their seats and settled in for a set that was one part autobiographical stand-up to two part musical masterclass. Difford spoke of the early days of **Squeeze**, prog, punk, the antics that he and a young **Jools Holland** would instigate and working alongside producer **John Cale**, between the likes of *Electric Trains* and the effervescent *Take Me I'm Yours*. *Strong In Reason* soon followed before encouraging the audience to fine tune their collective voice for a run through *Goodbye Girl*, Difford then turned his attention to his solo years for the country flavoured *Cowboys Are My Weakness* and the tongue in cheek, first set closer, *Fat As A Fiddle*, which had me scribbling in the margins 'must explore solo years' along with 'must buy forthcoming autobiography'. As the audience exploded in rapturous applause as Difford promised more of the same to follow.

If the first set was impressive, the second was sublime genius. Difford continued to regale tales from yesteryear, whilst musically moving from *Passion Killer* and *Pop Noodle* to a short run of the greatest hits of Squeeze, *Pulling Mussels (From A Shell)*. This was followed by an audience assisted *Tempted*, a rousing *Labelled For Love* and of course a grand finale of *Cool For Cats* - all duly delivered and lapped up by a rightfully enthralled audience as Malvern and **The Cube** pay witness to a genuine songwriting great.

by Will Munn Photography by Graham Munn

## Leylines

### Marrs bar, Worcester | 28th April

The ever popular rock folk band with punk delivery, **Leylines** returned to the **Marrs Bar** with the same supporting line up as their last visit - **Nick Parker** and West Mids based **Under A Banner**, a loud, rock driven version of Billy Bragg. We would see a bit more of Nick later, look out for his new album, *'Besta Venya'*. Suffice to say, Nick is always welcome here on Marrs.

Having been cutting crop circles in the carpets (carpets? In the Marrs Bar?) of the band room whilst listening to their supporting band's music drift up through the cracks in the floorboards, **The Leylines** were ready to deliver their set in the form of both old favourites and new treats. Matt strums up the Celtic influenced notes before the band bursts into life as *'Stone Circle'* is revealed in the sunrise and in *'You've Changed'* Steve takes up the vocals as Hannah dances and fiddles. There is one certainty whenever **The Leylines** hit the stage: the lure of the music is irresistible, even the reluctant and shy are drawn in like moths to a light, dancing around the band's glow. Pete and Dave are churning out the rhythm on bass and drums as the band *'Let It Go'*.

Time to ease the pressure a little as Hannah's honeyed strings join Steve's softer side to bring in the beautifully melodic *'Save Your Soul'*. But stand clear, you sort of know it's a ticking sweet custard creation that's going to explode into your face. Matt's trying to shake his head off as Steve hunches over his Yamaha, hammering the strings and Dave's sticks are hammering the

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stretched skins, looking red in the face with green tinges under the Marrs lights.

The punchy, introspective *'Own Worst Enemy'* rips out as the momentum builds. The anthem for the forgotten takers of the Queen's shilling is both soul stirring and soul searching, questioning the motives of the call to *'Queen And Country'*. Hannah's Song eases the tension, a lull before the storm. **Nick Parker** joins the band for the manic high speed dash of *'Run for Cover'*, the fans pushing hard to stay with the frenetic pace. Steve, Matt, Hannah, and Dave are looking drained, Pete stays cool with time to lift a glass of cider, get in touch with nature and find the festival spirit of *'Sat in a Field'*. Everyone joins in with a true festival fanfare that's impossible not to enjoy.

You do not forget a Leylines gig. The songs stay with you, conjuring up a vision of their performance. We will all be there when the band return for another great evening in the **Marrs Bar**.







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## Forever Sabbath & The Youth Within The Booth Hall | Friday 19th May

When the mighty Black Sabbath called it a day after almost fifty years as a band at the end of January, fans across the world were left devastated at the news. Sure the many classic records they left behind will live forever, but the fact that you will never have the chance to see them again in a live environment (probably, never say die, I mean never!) leads you into the void of disappointment.

Thank God (or the other one) then for **Forever Sabbath**, a band who will forever carry on the legacy of Black Sabbath on stage. Having thankfully seen the real Sabbath live a few years ago, the thought of hearing those bona fide metal classics live once again was a tantalizing thought and the band didn't disappoint on that front.

First up tonight though were Ledbury punk band **The Youth Within** who warmed up the audience, eager to hear some stone-cold Sabbath grooves, with their fiery brand of upbeat punk rock. On paper, this meeting of punk and heavy metal may seem an odd match to some but after all, Sabbath had The Ramones supporting them back on the Never Say Die tour in 1978. When that meeting of amazing bands happened, The Ramones didn't go down too well with the Sabbath faithful and had to put up with constant booing and things being thrown at them. Thankfully, there's none of that tonight and **The Youth Within** are given a warm reception by the audience. The band's quickfire, three-minute punk anthems which were both catchy and punchy, and their tight rhythms got the crowd more than warmed up for the main event.



After this fiery start, it was time for the headliners to take the stage and as the strains of the intro tape faded out, **Forever Sabbath** erupted into the unmistakable opening riff of After Forever and away we go. Classic followed classic, all delivered with an air of gusto as the audience banged their heads and nodded along to the music with *N.I.B.*, *Into The Void* and *Sabbath Bloody Sabbath* being played early on. *The Sabbath Bloody Sabbath* album was touched on a lot more later with this year being 45 years since the album was recorded and the title track sounds as timeless as ever.

*Children Of The Grave*, from my personal favourite album *Master Of Reality*, went down a storm as did the band's renditions of *Symptom Of The Universe* and *Under The Sun* from Vol. 4.

The Dio years were paid tribute to as well, with *Heaven And Hell* proving a particular favourite before they bowed out with the band's most well-known songs including *Iron Man*, *War Pigs* and, of course, *Paranoid* to rousing applause.

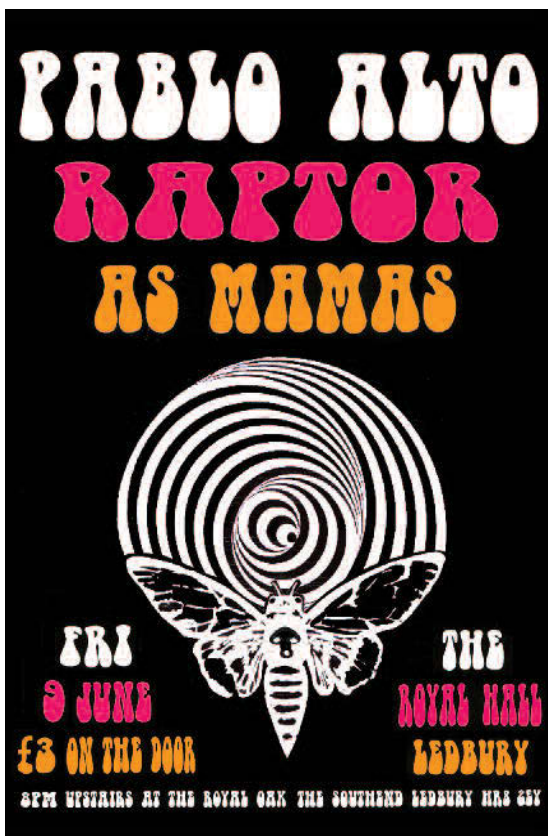


The band themselves did justice to material that some would say is sacred with guitarist Chris, silver cross proudly in display doing his best Tony Iommi impression, bassist Paul cool and collected, working in tandem with hard hitting drummer Mick as Butler and Ward and singer Bob with his Ozzy mannerisms down to a tee (and doing a fine job as Ronnie James Dio too) although his Bristol accent took a bit of getting used to when you kept on expecting a Birmingham one!

With Black Sabbath having so much classic material, the band couldn't possibly play it all and sadly there was no renditions of *Supernaut* or *Snowblind* but **Forever Sabbath** chose their set well and delivered on all fronts. Black Sabbath may be sadly gone but **Forever Sabbath** live on in their memory.

**The Youth Within** are playing a number of dates in Hereford in the next couple of months as well as a spot at the **Rebellion Festival** and are not to be missed at any cost.

Gavin Brown





# The Harts

## The Valkyrie Café Bar, Evesham | Sat 13th May

It's Saturday night at **The Valkyrie** in Evesham - there's a party going on and The Harts are right at the centre of it.

I first saw this band around two years ago in competition at **The Iron Road** - they came up against Black Russian firing on all cylinders so didn't progress but there was enough there to suggest they'd got a lot more left in the tank. Then, suddenly, almost out of nowhere, it was announced that one of my favourite vocalists, **Jodie Fido** of the much-missed **Sour Scarlet** was joining them.

Then, via a series of minor and not so minor personal disasters, I managed to miss them half a dozen times until, at long last, I got to see them play at this cracking venue.

The wait was certainly worth it - there's been a change in musical style to the heavy end of alt-rock and this band now has a very hard edge indeed and the jam-packed venue (I'd estimate there were 150 there) absolutely loved it.

The tone that guitarist **Dom Jones** is getting out of what looks like a vintage Jazzmaster and a series of devices (possibly a Tube Screamer) is amazing, especially in the opener "*Tomb*" - grungy and abrasive, while the clean sounding tone of Sebastian Tracz's bass pops and fizzes to great effect, meshing beautifully with **Dave Trevor**'s crisp drumming - he may be in near-darkness at the back of the stage but his presence is felt very strongly.



And over this backdrop, Jodie Fido's voice cuts through like a knife - it has power, depth and range - she can equally whisper or bellow a lyric out with huge skill and even though she's a firecracker onstage, you can constantly see on her face the focus underlying the performance.

Dancing breaks out early - very early indeed for one extremely refreshed gentleman who appeared to be visiting Earth from another planet and just generally, it's been some time since I saw an audience react like this - so good to see.

The highlight for me was their new single "*Hate Machine*", a subtly different and very atmospheric track. But the song that got the dancers really moving was a thunderous reworking of "*Tainted Love*" which I saw them play in that competition at The Iron Road and which has been retained in the set.

They're brought back for two encores - an accurate measure of their popularity, and reprise "*Tainted Love*" right at the end as they've run out of rehearsed material. Needless to say, this goes down very well indeed and brings the place to 'full bounce' mode.

A truly excellent performance, and I'm definitely not going to be leaving it so long before I see them again.

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

Geoffrey Head

# Kris Dollimore

## The Prince Of Wales Ledbury | 27th April

I always look forward to one of Kris Dollimore's sessions as you know you're going to see one of the finest finger picking guitarists in the UK. Maybe there is yet to be a long awaited new album but I'm not complaining as there's plenty of material to draw from his four previous, and still available, recordings along with songs that take his fancy to borrow for an evening.

Limbering up on a sweet '*Candy Man*' and '*Lover On The Bayou*', the old Byrds song, Kris was quickly into his groove and tracking with diamond stylus precision with an excellent '*Poor Boy Blues*'. With Kris, there is never a shortage of passion in his playing. Every note and every nuance to a song matters as he becomes at one with his guitar, which produces a truly beautiful sound under his fingers.

The glass slide is slipped on to face the '*Enemy*' that plays with our minds, seeping in to the dark recesses of paranoia. The mood changes as a pulsating rhythm fills the air, a shade of reverb in the vocals and



the superbly empathetic '*Miss Emma Jane*' tantalises our ears. The beat throbs out from the stomp board as Kris's head nods to that rhythm, his voice harmonising with the hypnotic guitar notes.

Taken from his No Ghosts album, '*Sahara Blues*' is more about Vegas than a palm lined oasis, though sand still sticks in the throat under the relentless heat, scorching sun and neon lights. Lift a few rocks there and you're sure to discover '*Evil People*' lurking underneath, grinding out a warning. No matter though as a lovely acoustic storm of '*Summer Rain*' washes through, seeping in to expunge the dark shadows. Kris lets his fingers do the talking, dancing over the strings of his acoustic guitar for the deeply emotional and instrumental '*Saudade*'.

Well I'll be damned if you think you're going to spend an evening listening to **Kris Dollimore** and not hear him persuaded to 'Testify'. Gritted out with his semi acoustic Gibson, he slips out of the witness box only to find himself trapped in the glorious loop of '*Groundhog Blues*' - John Lee Hooker's classic. It must mean Kris will be back soon enough so listen out for him. Brilliant, classy acoustic guitar talking the blues while enjoying a fine ale in the wonderful **Prince Of Wales** in Ledbury.

Graham Munn

## Hattie Briggs | 'Hide' EP launch Duffle Vintage Outfitters, Stroud | Friday 19th May

There is an easy grace to the music of **Hattie Briggs**, whose latest EP "*Hide*" was launched at a packed **Duffle Vintage Outfitters** on Friday.

A new venture for Duffle, the performance space and the shop's distinctly unusual ambience made for a fascinating and delightful evening.

First on tonight are Cirencester's (and indeed one of the country's) finest purveyors of Americana, **The Black Feathers**.

They are in fine form tonight - Sian has her eye on a couple of vintage jackets and urges us to visit the merch stand after the set to help pay for them, and the whole performance has a wonderfully buoyant atmosphere to it. There are new songs too, written on their latest American tour - the ballad, "*Holy Water*" and the uptempo "*Three Stars*" are the pick of the bunch, but for me the song of the set is a lovely version of "Homesick" from their album "*Soaked To The Bone*". Great start.



We're finding out that there's one distinct advantage in the musicians we've come to see being surrounded by racks of vintage clothes - there's no echo whatsoever in this venue, nothing to stop us getting undiluted sound, and aided by an excellent sound tech, we're treated to a simply wonderful set.

**Hattie Briggs** chooses her accompanists well. Anyone who saw her beautiful performance at last year's **Stroud Fringe Festival** will know that, and in this most compact venue tonight, her long-time cellist, **Jasmine Scott Neale** and guitarist **Matt Park** provide near-perfect arrangements for her wide variety of songs.

She's here to launch an EP tonight, part of a blizzard of music which she calls the "*Twelve Months Of Madness*" that will see a release every month throughout the year. We kick off with the first released track from that, "*Never Been In Love Before*" and it pretty much sets a standard for the evening which never drops. The consistency of the songwriting and the arrangements is astonishing.



"*Old Eyes*", one of my favourites, is an early highlight but when Briggs moves from guitar to piano and Park moves over from acoustic guitar to pedal steel, we begin to see the full potential of this trio - his work on "*The River*" is particularly fine.

There's some good between-song banter and anecdotes as well, none more so than for "*All About Love*", a song sung for a wedding at which the bride and groom had independently booked her as the surprise for one another!



The song of the evening though proves to be the title track of the EP, "*Hide*" - sung solo, against a delicate piano background, it is absolutely breathtaking, you could hear a pin drop. Beautiful.

The best ensemble playing is saved for Eva Cassidy's arrangement of the Jazz standard "*Autumn Leaves*", with Briggs' voice soaring with immense power, Park's pedal steel shimmering and Scott Neale, switching effortlessly between bow and pizzicato all evening, finally cutting loose. Glorious stuff.

We know there's going to be an encore because there's no way the musicians can leave the stage through the throng, and when the final bars of "*You Only Live Once*" from the "*Young Runaway*" album finally leave us the band has been onstage for more than an hour - the time has simply flown by.

A wonderful performance from an artist you can't help feeling is on the verge of something really big.

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

Geoffrey Head

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# Swingamajig

## Digbeth Triangle, Birmingham | 30th April

**Swingamajig** has always been a festival like no other. It's an urban affair that welds the nostalgic sounds of the thirties and forties with bang up to date electronics, ramshackle gypsy folk, hip-hop, rock and more, all complemented with a healthy side order of burlesque, glamour and street performers. But this year's event promised all that and more, expanding on familiar themes whilst delving into new realms all set in the heart of Digbeth.

Just walking round the site itself was an experience, first you encounter a thriving fayre, with food supplied by the infamous Digbeth diners. Venturing on and there's the impressive pyramid like mainstage marquee, a live graffiti artist and the smartest looking festival organisers milling around as the best dressed audience is buzzing in anticipation of the forthcoming spectacular.

A continued stroll reveals auditorium like seating for the **Cabaret Stage**, up some stairs and we're on a balcony overlooking the festival as the **Jim Wynn Swing Orchestra** set their stall. The **Night Owl** welcomes the first few revellers willing to tread the boards for a Charleston whilst the **Cave Of Curiosities** becomes a hive of activity as we venture back to Swingamajig mainstage for the first band of the day.

Seattle's **Good Co** were an inspired choice of openers. A six-piece blending the aforementioned retro sounds of the roaring 20's with a dash of electronic funk and plenty of parping horns topped with the gorgeous soulful tones of Carey Rayburn. Originals such as *Don't Look Now* and the contagious *Paper Tiger* soon had the early swingers taking to the floor whilst a glorious take on *St James Infirmary Blues* proved an early treat.

A dash to the rapidly filling **Cave of Curiosities** saw Birmingham's very own gutter rockers **Rhino & The Ranters** tear through a set that saw the band weave an engaging mix of rock 'n' roll, feral blues, country and even a touch of gospel as they took the local faithful on a rollercoaster of twanging strings and punchy rhythms. Lead singer **Ryan Webb** is part preacher, part ringmaster as he incites the audience, hangs from the barriers and joins the heaving throng as the **Skylarks Choir** take to the stage for a thrilling, rough and ready gospel finale.

By now the festival was very much alive and kicking, everywhere you looked something was going on and a chance stumble into the **Cabaret Stage** revealed a jaw dropping turn by street dance troupe Tension Breakers who were wowing with a selection of flips, headspins and the like, egged on by master of ceremonies **Joe Black**. Back in the Cave, **King Brasstards** offered up an aptly brash heavy set of danceable funk jazz, delivering inspired renditions of everything from New Orleans standard *Feel Like Funkin' It Up* to Disney's *Bare Necessities* and *King Of The*

*Swingers*. Over in the main arena **Elle & The Pocket Belles** along with **DJ Switch** and **MC Gambit Ace** were mashing five part Andrews Sisters like harmonies with throbbing electro and modern day grime to dazzling effect, adding a new twist to the likes of *Rum & Coca Cola* and *House Of The Rising Sun*.

**Oh My God It's The Church!** followed offering the perfect (yet somewhat politically incorrect) Sunday service, led by the pentecostal pervert Rev. **Micheal Alabama Jackson** and his dedicated congregation **The Three Marys**. The Church offered part musical theatre, part funk throw down, leading the masses to raise their voices to the heavens above and serenade *Sexy Jesus* with the likes of *Gangsta's Paradise*, *Rolling On The River* and *Hey Ya*. Take Note...If religions the world over took a leaf out of the good book of 'The Church, attendances would soar and we'd be all too busy getting down to preach hate.

After refuelling on cider and Greek grub and a quick look at funk instrumental eight-piece **Smertins Anti Social Club**, it was time for a bit of infectious rockabilly in the capable hands of **Sharnae Mae And The Mayhems**. Despite technical issues, they delivered an engaging and spirited set full of big hooked sing-a-longs and addictive twanging guitars whilst an instrument shuffle and a healthy country diversion proved the band's versatility. This was all before a raucous run through recent revenge single '*Sugar in the Tank*' which brought the band's set to a glorious climax.

Following the new rockabilly heroes, Birmingham's very own skunk rock pioneers, **The Cracked Actors** provide a dose of ska and their own brand of punk politics where spiky riffs collide with a three pronged horn assault whilst the larger than life **Fudge** leads the troops from the front through to long time favourites '*Skapache*', '*Naked When I Dance*' and '*Flowers*' during an exhilarating set.

One of the undoubted highlights was a crammed full main arena welcoming seasoned festival veterans and **Swingamajig** organisers **Electric Swing Circus** to the stage debuting a live horn section for a rip-roaring set lifted from their two albums to date. The band gave it their all, tap dancing across the stage as retro swing met modern day electronics head on in a delicious and addictive stew that had the entire marquee throbbing as one from the opening *Mama Zita* to *Valentine's* finale.

As we left the party was very much still in full swing with numerous live sets, DJs and performers still entertaining the sharp dressed hordes well into the night. And for those with the stamina, an aftershow party incorporating three different venues saw in the morning. But for us, we left tired yet satisfied, knowing we really had witness a show like no other...

Will Munn



## Jasper In The Company Of Others

Worcester based five-piece, **Jasper In The Company Of Others**, have long established their credentials on the local scene (and beyond) as one of the hottest live tickets in town. Their effortless blend of hook-ridden folk-pop has seen the band gain a massive following which has only increased with multiple festival appearances. Last year the band conquered the mainstage of **Lakefest**, whilst this year will see the band up in lights at **Nozstock**, as well as treading the boards at the critically acclaimed **Greenbelt Festival**.

Inbetween bouts on the summer festival circuit and their own gigs across the Midlands and beyond, the band have also found time to decamp to the studio, with producer of choice **Dave Draper** in tow, to write and record their follow up to 2013's *Dens And Diaries* album. Having heard the first single, the infectious, radio friendly 'As The Sun Rises' my expectations were on high alert. The band had returned with a fuller, vibrant sound that seemed to leap from the speakers whilst the band's ability to write an infectious hook and melody combination was still very much in evidence as a brilliant, nagging riff lunges for the attention whilst the choral vocal hook reverberates long after the song is brought to a close.

Having heard the full length album (on repeat for the past few days) I'm happy to report that *As The Sun Rises* is no mere one off. In fact, **Jasper In The Company Of Others** have not only made the album they always promised but they could have just delivered one of the releases of the year (big statement I know). The disc is packed with those aforementioned winning hooks and melodies, the production is punchy throughout and even the sequencing of the album is spot on. From the restrained opener of *Spit On The Wheel* segueing into *As The Sun Rises* through the big sing-a-longs of *I've Been With You* and *I Built These Walls* to the reflective closer, *Coming Home* the album ebbs and flows magnificently.



*Spit On The Wheel* is a restrained opener that weighs in at just over two minutes. The band play on the down low leaving Jasper Malone's gravelly tones and plucked acoustic to set the mood, punctuated only by the drums of **Chris Yeomans** and occasional uke twang (**Jay Hayward**). The plucked guitar becomes a hearty strum and is soon joined by the bass and fiddle of **Will Hughes** and **Adam Ingram**. As *The Sun Rises* leaps out and urges the listener to their feet and from there on in the band deliver a masterclass in how to cram as many hooks over eleven tracks as humanly possible.

*I've Been With You* sees the band blend flights of violin, Yeomans powerful drums, strummed, folky verses and an enormous, undeniable choral hook that's set to echo across the fields of England during the summer months ahead. *I Built These Walls* opens as another hushed folk lament with a gorgeous soulful Malone croon before Yeoman again makes his presence felt whilst subtle uke twangs and strums further pepper the mix -all in all leading towards a glorious harmony enriched hook that crashes in like a long lost friend, urging you to sing-a-long (even if, like me, you're sat in the comfort of your own home).

As the album continues clever arrangements and use of instrumentation help frame Jasper's addictive delivery with acoustic guitar, fiddle and uke weaving an intoxicating spell on the likes of *Devils Friend* whilst Hughes helps provide a bottom end groove alongside the expressive drums. *New Found Organ* sees Jasper really open those vocal chords (almost hitting a near falsetto) to deliver a gorgeous soul number, complimented further with a delicious fiddle bridge and those ever present thumping drums of Yeomans. In contrast, *Derby Mile* is a stomping tale of excess that sees the band flex their muscles and spread their wings into folk rock territory before closing with the gorgeous, slow burning, *Coming Home*.

The second album, *JITCOO*, really does have it all, from instant hooks and sing-a-longs to subtle melodies that reveal themselves on subsequent spins. Expect to hear a great deal more from **Jasper In The Company Of Others** over the next few months as this disc rightfully propels them towards becoming the household names they so richly deserve to become.

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Will Munn

## Nuns of the Tundra | Minds Eye

As I listen to **Nuns of the Tundra's** latest track 'Minds Eye' I'm sat in nearly 30 degree heat, a temperature that is not welcome to this Winter lover. Despite this, I can feel myself itching to move, to break out of the case of sweat I'm currently lined in and to let the rapid, relentless tide of 'Minds Eye' control my body for the full 4 minutes and 12 seconds the band treat us to.

The single marks the release of the bands first music video that is just as well put together as their song. With the aesthetics of an old church building, hanging lights and a film of a sierra-esque filter, the video matches up perfectly with the climactic nature of the track. Climactic isn't the only thing it is

either. The forceful pelts of riffs and beats, the dizzying whirlwind of chords and the final release of that tightening coil all amount to a track that is as bold and brash as it is sophisticated and subtle. Keep your eye on these guys, they'll be tearing up a storm before you know what's happening.

Emily Branson





# The Hawthornes | Cut And Run

Cheltenham based spiky acoustic folk foursome **The Hawthornes** only formed back in 2013, but since their inception they've already become festival mainstays, performing at the likes of Lakefest, New Forest Folk Festival and Y Not! Constant gigging has seen them share stages with the likes of 3 Daft Monkeys and Show Of Hands legend, Phil Beer among others. The band released their debut album as a trio, *Stoneville Street* a couple of years back, courting attention from the likes of Folk Radio UK, establishing themselves as one of the most promising up and comers on the UK folk scene.

I initially stumbled on the band at the aforementioned Lakefest rocking a packed out Crew Salam stage and immediately fell for their infectious blend of hook-laden melodies, banged out percussion and winning, harmony infused vocal refrains. Their addictive set left a lasting impression and a copy of the album soundtracked our trek home that night, with the likes of *Changing Ways* and *Drama Queen* subsequently becoming firm favourites. Since then **The Hawthornes** have added to their sound, recruiting a fourth member, former Roving Crow **Greg Wilson-Copp** on trumpet duties. They have continued to write and perform across the Midlands and beyond, eventually decamping to Greg's own Sound Shack Studio to record their full length follow up *Cut And Run*.



The band's debut was an impressive opening gambit but pales in comparison to their new offering - *Cut And Run* retains the infectious melodies, driving rhythms and hook-laden sing-a-longs. *Patience* opens proceedings and the two and half minute gallop instantly sets the mood. **Jesse Benns'** thumped out rhythm and the bass throb of **Gordy Partridge** sets the wheels in motion before **Wilson-Copp's** trumpet cuts in, offering an almost mariachi feel to proceedings. A ballsy, yet soulful lead from **Louisa Garland**, throw in a few harmonies and a stirring choral hook and the band instantly lurch for the attention from the off.

*Turn Your Back* follows with a strummed acoustic and Louisa's gorgeous lead before the rhythm section and complimentary harmonies join the mix formulating a gorgeous, reflective soulful folk number, further peppered by Greg's trumpet bridging between verse and chorus. *Little Games* opens as a gorgeous slow burning widescreen folk number, that moves from a dreamy, hazy choral hook to a Latin tinged instrumental work out as the rhythm section become a driving force complimenting Greg's spirited trumpet burst.

The album continues, littered with infectious hooks, from the gloriously addictive vocal hook and choppy melody of *Last Song* to the stripped back beauty of the plucked and pattered album closer *Vernon Place*. The ten track, thirty five minute disc is a fat-free joy from start to finish that should satisfy long term fans and newcomers alike. Once heard, expect to be humming those Hawthornes melodies all summer long.

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

Will Munn

# The Black Rattles The Undiscovered Colour

Back in 2015 local musician **Richard Monk** met Irish native **Konrad Sheane** online bonding over a mutual passion and desire to perform rock 'n' roll. After messages were sent back and forth, Konrad flew to the UK for an intense week of rehearsals. Richard and the duo immediately clicked, sowing the seeds for **The Black Rattles**. Konrad relocated to England and since then the duo have been hard at work writing, recording and piecing together their debut album, *The Undiscovered Colour*.

Following in the footsteps of The White Stripes, Two Gallants and The Black Keys, **The Black Rattles** dispense of any unwanted fat to create a lean, hard hitting rock 'n' roll combo full of urgent riffs and punchy drums. From the opening track, *Come On In*, Monk sets the stall with an addictive repetitive riff before Sheane's drums join, locking into a tight groove, whilst Richard delivers a glorious, Morrison like, primal howl over a bluesy slab of feral garage rock. *High Tide Running Wild* continues in much the same thrilling vein, bombastic stop/start drums and filthy rock riffs collide and canter as Monk yelps and hollers like a man possessed, creating a raw, edgy and highly addictive sound that grabs at the lapels and shakes the listener to the core.



*Too Much Sadness* brings to mind The Stones as it opens as a slower, bluesy number complete with wailing harmonica and subtle guitar chimes, as Monk cranks the guitar and delivers a swaggering Jagger like lead, *Machine* has something of a seemingly grunge like twist as the subtle guitars build as Sheane becomes more animated behind the kit.

The band's love for all things rock 'n' roll continues to play throughout the grooves of *The Undiscovered Colour*. Wearing their influences proudly on their sleeves, **The Black Rattles** pay homage to the blues on the oddly named, *Yellow Glass Fish* and offer a sly nod to the country of Hank Williams on the stripped back *Lonely Heart*. This is before rallying for the amped up primeval garage rush of *Tell Your Lover I Love Her Still* and the mesmeric, Doors like finale, *You Can't Afford To Be Alone*.

But it doesn't matter one iota that you can spot the various influences. This is timeless, ballsy, spirited rock 'n' roll at its absolute best. It's the kind of album that (and there are very few) if you close your eyes whilst listening, you're transported to that hot, sweaty, smoky club,

possessed on the dancefloor by the potent sound of **The Black Rattles**....trust me when I say it really is that damn good.

*The Undiscovered Colour* will be available from 4th June on Spotify, iTunes, Deezer, etc.

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

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

Will Munn

## The Bob Dylan Story Artrix, Bromsgrove | Thurs 29th June

Mr Tambourine Man rolls into town, at Artrix this June with a brand new multimedia show celebrating the life and music of rock legend and Nobel-prize winner Bob Dylan.

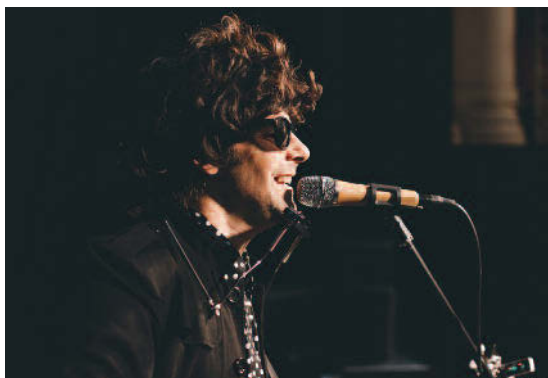
The Bob Dylan Story recreates all the classic hits, from *The Times They Are A-Changin'*, *Blowin' In The Wind* and *Mr Tambourine Man* through to *Like A Rolling Stone*, *Subterranean Homesick Blues*, *Lay Lady Lay*, *Knockin' On Heaven's Door* and many more, while telling some of the fascinating tales behind them.

Supported by a top backing band, the show takes its audience back to the 1960s, the era of Vietnam, anti-war and civil rights protests, and of course, timeless music spearheaded by the likes of Dylan, this year's winner of the Nobel prize for literature, as he plotted his journey from revered protest singer to provocative rock n roll star to virtual recluse and back again, all in the space of a few short years.

"We wanted to give Dylan's many fans the opportunity to hear the songs as they remember them, all in one sitting" explains Bill Lennon, who plays the main man in the show. "And although many of Dylan's songs were hits for other artists, from Hendrix's *All Along The Watchtower* right up to Adele's *Make You Feel My Love*, we remain true to the original versions.

"We are confident the show will have people digging out their old vinyl to sustain the nostalgia just that little bit longer," added Bill, whose other credits include James Taylor in *You've Got A Friend* and Keith Richards in *The Counterfeit Stones*.

The show, produced by 4th Street Entertainment Ltd, appears at Artrix on Thursday 29th June. Showtime is 8pm.



Tickets are available from Artrix online at [www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk) or by calling Box Office on 01527 577 330.

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# Underground Revolution at The Booth Hall, Hereford

For the months of June and July the **Underground Revolution** bring you more memorable live music experiences. It is impossible to put into words how grateful we are to the live music fans in Hereford and surrounding counties who attend our shows and support the bands and musicians we represent. We like to consider ourselves more than just promoters, since the term 'promoters' seems to create images of £££ signs in people's minds. We are a small D.I.Y promoter in Hereford with BIG LOVE for live music. Basically, we are non-profit. The formula is pretty simple - support live music and reap the benefits of a thriving music community. That is what is happening in Hereford, so keep an eye out for our shows and be a part of something bigger than just a night out. Tickets available from [www.theboothhall.co.uk](http://www.theboothhall.co.uk)

## June 2nd - A Funky Reggae Party

Doors open 7pm - Until Late. Tickets ONLY £6 / NUS ONLY £3.50. We bring you a night of live music and top notch DJ tunes that will get you groovin' old skool stylee. Expect 3 epic performances from roots reggae funk band **Fowokan**, Herefordshire ska and punk band **Alvin and the Angry Barrels** and Reggae, dub and bass on the turntables from **DJ BDS Silva**.



**Fowokan** frontman **Jimmy Lindsay** and drummer **Sam Kelly** are respected musicians in the British and International music scene. Jimmy Lindsay's legacy includes fronting **Cymande** in the 70's and his solo career found him at the forefront of British reggae aligning himself with reggae greats such as Joe Gibbs, Jimmy Cliff, Bob Andy and Bob Marley.

He has performed alongside Ronnie Lane, E.L.P, Steel Pulse, Status Quo and many other contemporaries. His chart success includes his superlative re-working of the Commodores' 'Easy' (1977 British Reggae award winning single). It's impossible to mention all of Jimmy's contributions to the music world, we would be here all day.

## June 24th - XSLF, Terminal Rage and Teddy's Leg

**Henry Cluney** and **Jim Reilly** both original ex-members of seventies Belfast punk band **Stiff Little Fingers** are coming to Hereford performing as **XSLF** who are killing it with their brand of punk all over the country! XSLF will be supported by local Herefordshire punk bands **Terminal Rage** (Playing Rebellion Fest 2017) and **Teddy's Leg** who recently toured with Dischord and Trioxin Cherry. Teddy's Leg and Terminal Rage are part of a community of punk bands rooted in Hereford's expanding punk scene supported by the Underground Revolution and various local promoters.



Doors 8pm, Tickets £8/NUS only £4.

## July 1st - Radiosaurus, Michael Knowles & The Std's, Barefoot In Baltimore,

Three loud and equally distorted bands will take over The Booth Hall stage July 1st. Ear plugs are recommended. Sunny Plymouth band **Radiosaurus** - who are currently touring England and



blowing the socks off live music groupies all over the country with their thunderous stoner/grunge-rock sound containing moments of surf-esque melodic groove - are making Hereford their first destination in July! They will be supported by Worcestershire based band **Michael Knowles & the STD's** who have a pretty controversial frontman, and rock the 'punge' sound - basically, chaos with feedback - keeping in tune with the night's loud and wild theme (which is an understatement for this band). Also supporting are **Barefoot in Baltimore** coming from Birmingham and fronted by the beautiful **Taylor Mentos** who brings delicate melody to the band's instrumental, gritty, distorted, grunge sound. Doors 8PM, Tickets £4/£2.50 NUS. Tickets on the door only.

## July 8th A Crisis Of Conscience Homelessness Charity Punk Festival

The Underground Revolution and The Booth Hall Hereford bring you their 2nd annual punk festival supported by **Hereford's Punk Community**. This festival will be raising funds towards the **Musicians Against Homelessness** national music fundraiser for **CRISIS**. Homelessness and austerity are big social problems in this country and a cause worth fighting for. We call out to the community to help us support this cause.

Featuring 10 bands including **Brassick**, **The Youth Within**, **Terminal Rage**, **Teddy's Leg**, **Black Boxes** and **Last Tree Squad**, 2 DJ's spinning dub, reggae and punk, a political spoken word showcase headlined by **Jonny Fluffypunk**, live punk art for auction created by local artist and muralist **Simon Rogers** and tattoo artist **Draco Lee**, merchandise for auction, and more.

Doors 12pm Until Late. FREE until 6pm. £6 on the door for evening bands and headliner. Donations during day.

To find out more visit our festival Facebook page [www.facebook.com/acrisisofconscience](http://www.facebook.com/acrisisofconscience) or join **The Underground Revolution** Hereford Facebook group page [www.facebook.com/groups/undergroundrevolution](http://www.facebook.com/groups/undergroundrevolution).

Michelle Cuadra  
SLAP JUNE 37

# Pub Trio - Equipment Case Study

Musicians may have different styles and musical preferences, but in my experience they are always curious to know what gear other acts playing similar venues are using. As with many of the bands showcased in *Slap* magazine, **The Ray Mytton Band**, in which I play guitar, finds much of its work in pubs and smaller venues where setup space is often a challenge. Transport can also be an issue as the days of saving up for a clapped out group van seem to be well and truly behind us — and I'm not sad to see them go. Fortunately there's plenty of choice when it comes to PA and guitar amplifiers that will fit both the wallet and the back of a hatchback. And no more flight cases. All the cables, plug-boards and accessories go into a large eco-friendly hessian bag.

To keep things compact and to keep sound levels under control, drummer Keith Box plays a cajon in our trio where Ray Mytton plays acoustic guitar and sings with Keith also handling backing vocals. I play electric guitar and am kept well away from any vocal mics. This may seem an odd line-up to qualify as a band, especially as we play a lot of classic rock and blues covers from Floyd to Free, but it actually works surprisingly well with just a bit of help from modern technology. The cajon, which Keith also uses with a special kick pedal, fills in for drums and also covers for the lack of a bass guitar very effectively. A single mic at the back of the cajon is all that's needed to get it into the PA, and other than Ray's MXL vocal mic, chosen to suit his voice, we use Prodipt TT1s for everything else as they are as cheap as chips and actually rather good.

If you read my early columns from last year, you may recall that I mentioned using an EHX B9 organ emulation pedal with my guitar so that I can fade in pseudo-organ parts under the guitar — great for Dylan songs or for when somebody who has had 'a few too many' demands House of the Rising Sun. You may also recall that arriving at a satisfactory setup entailed adding a separate compressor pedal, volume pedal and rotary speaker effect to my pedalboard just to make the B9 sound good — nothing is ever easy.

My amp has reverb so the only dedicated guitar effects on my board (not counting the organ bits and pieces) are a Fulltone OCD overdrive, an EHX Nano Metal pedal (wonderful for 60s fuzz sounds), a Digitech Mosaic 12-string emulator and a TC delay. I do however use a proper stabilised pedal power supply with isolated outputs as cheap power supplies (where all the outputs come from a common source) just seem to invite buzz and hum.

Some pubs are so small that you need to be a bit flexible when it comes to PA, so for those tiny venues with L-shaped bars or a band area inside the arc of a bay window (Three Kings at Hanley Castle anyone?), we often use Ray's Fishman Loudbox acoustic guitar amplifier as one side of the PA and one of my Schertler 150 Watt, eight-inch powered speakers for the other. We might even dispense with a monitor to save space and instead place Ray's amp where he can hear it. For most gigs though we use two of the Schertler powered speakers on tripod stands and Ray sets up his amplifier behind him just for his Takamine guitar.

I do have a very nice Fohhn mini line-array PA with a sub that's perfect for larger events, but realistically we haven't found it necessary for any of the pub gigs we do — the cajon still sounds weighty enough over the pair of Schertler eight inch speakers yet they are small enough not to block the audience's line of sight too much and easy to carry one in each hand. On a technical point, smaller two-way speakers tend to perform better in the mid range than 12 inch speakers, which is important in achieving a natural and clear vocal sound.

A small Behringer 1202FX mixer (four mic inputs and four stereo line inputs) completes the basic PA setup allowing us to mix two vocal mics, a DI feed from Ray's guitar amp, a cajon mic and the stereo line output from my organ rotary pedal. There's also a spare line input or two if I need to take a DI feed from the back of my 60 Watt Roland Blues Cube 1 x12 Stage combo. I picked the Blues Cube after much deliberation as it looks, sounds and feels like a decent valve amp but it is much lighter and has a power scaling switch so you can make it sound good at any volume. It also takes pedals well and the DI output has really good speaker emulation. I'll generally have it dialled to the 15 Watt setting on the clean channel but at one craft fair gig we did last year, I got asked to turn down when I had it on the half Watt setting!

For monitoring we use a single Mackie SRM150 mini monitor mounted on a short stand and for vocal effects we have a TC-Helicon Perform V which clips onto Ray's mic stand and allows button selection of the three delay/reverb combinations that we have set up to cover our needs. That Mackie mini monitor has done some great work including standing in for one whole side of the PA at a gig where a PA speaker died on us. You can buy similar speakers from TC, Studiomaster and Wharfedale that will get the job done without taking up too much floor space. I know some people worry that such tiny monitors won't be loud enough but all the deep bass is filtered out so they can concentrate their power on the mids and highs. You hear enough low end leaking back from the PA anyway. You'll run into feedback well before you run out of power.



Finally, just a word on my choice of guitars. I have a Strat, I have a Telecaster and I have a Les Paul plus several home-built guitars (including the Psychedelic S-Type seen in our band photo) that play and sound fine, but I was doing a talk at a music store last year and while I was waiting to do my thing, I had a browse around the guitar section — like you do. Anyhow, I rather liked the look of an Epiphone Blueshawk hanging on the wall — a slightly quirky semi-solid fitted with two P90s and a separate hum-cancelling coil to keep them quiet. It also has a weird passive tone circuit (an inductor and several capacitors) operated by a rotary switch that takes the sound from a Peter Green nasal honk to something almost acoustic-like. After much agonising I bought it and it has since become my main live instrument as it covers most of the tonal ground that I previously needed both a Strat and a humbucker guitar to handle. I guess the moral is that if you can accept the idea of playing something that doesn't have Fender, Gibson or PRS on the headstock, there are some really nice guitars out there.

*Pau White, Editor in Chief, Sound on Sound*



## Melting Pot Theatre Company presents 'The Odd Couple' by Neil Simon.

**Melting Pot Theatre Company**, Worcester's Independent Theatre Company, have the following production of *The Odd Couple* at the **Coach House Theatre** in Malvern at the end of June.

Felix Ungar is holding on to life by his fingertips, his wife has thrown him out, and to top it all he's missing the Friday night poker game cos he's roaming the streets of New York with nowhere to go and no future. Step in unlikely guardian angel, Oscar Madison. Oscar thinks nothing of stubbing out his cigar in the meatballs or leaving the laundry to fester under the sofa. To say he's a slob is an insult to slob. He offers sanctuary to Felix, who includes clean napkins, coasters and vacuuming in his spare time among his favourite things. A combustible combination? This could be the end of a beautiful friendship!

Melting Pot has been on the theatrical scene in Worcester since 2002, presenting outdoor productions in venues such as **The Commandery** and **Greyfriars**, and inside we have taken our shows to **The Worcester Arts Workshop** and **The ArtHouse Cafe**, and on tour to, amongst others, the back garden of **The**



**Dirty Duck** in Stratford, where they cheekily presented their 7 cast Hamlet to much acclaim! This is their first time at the Coach House in Malvern and we are very much looking forward to having fun here!

**Tuesday 27th June – Saturday 1st July** at 7.30pm, Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Ticket prices £15 and £12 (conc) inc 12% booking fee. Booking at Malvern Theatres Box Office, 01684 892277 or online at [www.malvern-theatres.co.uk](http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk). The first night, proceeds go to St Richards Hospice.

## Folk in the Foyer Jimmy Aldridge & Sid Goldsmith Evesham Arts Centre | Thu 29th June

A young folk duo with a name for great harmonies & picking banjos play at Evesham's **Folk in the Foyer**

**Jimmy Aldridge & Sid Goldsmith** play both traditional and original folksong of the British Isles, heavily influenced by the songs & singers of their native East Anglia. Their songs tell stories of joy, struggle, hardship and celebration - in close vocal harmonies held together with driving banjo & guitar arrangements.

Over the last three years the young duo have built a reputation for arresting and moving performances, recently releasing the album *"Night Hours"* - a powerful collection of poignant compositions and re-workings of traditional material.

*"Every now and then an act jumps out at you and knocks you back. You're in for a treat."* - Mike Harding

This is the latest of **Evesham Arts Centre's** folk nights, bringing a wide variety of both new and traditional folk music to Evesham. Later 2017 concerts are scheduled to feature the entertaining Sarah McQuaid, Clive Gregson, the legendary Tir na nOg and Jim Moray. Music starts at 8pm. Tickets are on sale priced £10 Conc £9 from Evesham Almonry, Abbey Road, WR11 4BG 01386-446944 and online from [www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk](http://www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk)



## Ginger Wildheart + Rev The Marrs bar, Worcester | Sat 24th June

**Ginger Wildheart** is also the leader of British Rock legends The Wildhearts, an anarchic and hard to define band, garnering comparisons such as Metallica meets The Beatles. The first charge, from the early 1990's to 1997 created classic albums *'Earth Vs The Wildhearts'*, *'PHUQ'* and the ahead of its time racket of *'Endless Nameless'*. The band reformed in 2001, touring extensively including European & US tours with The Darkness and releasing albums including *'The Wildhearts Must Be Destroyed'*, *'The Wildhearts'* and *'Chutzpah!'*

Along the way, Ginger has contributed to many other bands and projects, including writing songs for **Jason and the Scorchers**, writing and touring with **Michael Monroe**, three solo albums before 555% (*'Valor Del Corazon'*), *'Yoni'* and *'Market Harbour'* and the glam rock spectacle of **Silver Ginger 5** with **Conny Bloom**.



Ginger was born to write and play music and the next project is just over the next hill, so strap yourself in and enjoy the ride!

£15 in advance £17 on the door

Tickets: <http://www.seetickets.com/event/ginger-wildheart/the-marrs-bar/1099611>

## Conspiracy of Kings The Booth Hall, Hereford | Sat 22nd April

When a band you love calls it a day, there's nothing you can do about it except hope all the members go on to advance their careers and/or form other bands that you grow to love just as much.



After this wonderful day of music already, for **Record Store Day**, I head over to Hereford to see the first headline gig for **Conspiracy of Kings** - the band formed by **Stu McEwan** and **Ryan Randolph** from **Spirit Kreek**, whose guitarist **Scott Morris** is now making waves with the sublimely uncompromising **Hate.System**. They've teamed up with guitarist/vocalist **Richard Gardner** to form what already sounds on SoundCloud to be distinctly no-nonsense outfit.

I'm expecting first-class, riff-heavy hard rock tonight and that's exactly what we get.

To call this performance 'dynamic' is a bit like calling Everest 'a little on the large side...' High octane hard rock with just the right amount of melody, subtlety and variety to keep things fresh throughout the set, and with a kick like a deranged mule. This is no noise-fest, it's not over loud or the subtlety would have been lost, it's just lean, focused and very powerful.

The band builds from the back and this is one of tightest rhythm units you'll hear all year - when Ryan Randolph hits a drum it stays hit - he's now sponsored by Collision Drumsticks and they'd have been pretty happy to see their product get through the evening unscathed, one is even pressed into service to beat out a tattoo on McEwan's bass during what for me was the highlight of the set, "*Until The End Of The Day*". He's sporting a five-stringer tonight and suffice it to say they all get a workout - a thunderous but nimble player who even maintains the pace when balanced and bopping on top of his amp or threatening to demolish mic stands and the PA by whirling dervish-like across the stage.

**Richard Gardner** announces his presence at the very brief soundcheck with a cascade of notes and it's clear right from the off that this man can play. Not flash - his solos, lightning quick though some of them are, are economical and exceptionally fluent, largely eschewing the bidextral style in favour of ultra fast pick work and a blur of a left hand. His voice is damned near perfect for this type of music, soulful and unwavering even under pressure in the most powerful sections.

I've been chatting all evening to a group of ladies "d'un certain age" who have been bopping away on the dance floor right through the performance and I ask them what they thought at the end. "*Different class*", one says and it's difficult to argue with that.

Certainly one of the best performances I've seen this year. More, please. **Conspiracy of Kings** support **The Troy Redfern Band** at the Knighton Community Centre on Saturday 1st July.

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

Geoffrey Head

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# 3 Daft Monkeys, Hawthornes

## The Hare & Hounds, Birmingham | 11th May

If you weren't there for the evening of fantasia and folk at **The Hare & Hounds** then you missed a truly marvellous evening's entertainment. Since I saw both bands at **Lakefest** last year, **The Hawthornes** and **3 Daft Monkeys** have released new albums with The Hawthornes growing another spike to add to their evergreen credentials.

In the strange blue light of the H&H stage, the Hawthornes step up: **Louisa**, **Jesse**, **Gordy**, and the trumpeting **Greg Wilson-Copp**. Recording duties aside, Greg's trumpet certainly adds another dimension to an already lively band. Louisa is in a '*Happier State*'



as Jesse rattles out the rhythm, straddling the cahon. Meanwhile Gordy adds depth on his bass while Greg pecks away at the poignant little ditty. An acerbic '*Drama Queen*' bites in as the set seems to race by so quickly. Greg's trumpet blows in '*Last Song*' with its easy, hip swinging vibe but there's time to ask 'Where Are We All Going' through an irresistible, snappy tune. The answer is onward and upward as the Hawthornes take root in the open fields of festivals this season. Look out for them to find your own *Happier State*.

Despite my lack of folky credentials, those inimitable **3 Daft Monkeys** will always draw me in with their eclectic music delivered in Bohemian manner, intoxicating to all who gather under their magical Cornish spell. The Hare & Hounds is cosy, filled with a warm crowd of Monkey nuts. **Athene** seers the air with her frivolous fiddling for '*Drink With God*' and the band are straight up to pace with Tim singing out the lyrics as he cradles his glorious sounding 12 string and Jamie's bass thunders out the building blocks cemented by Rich on drums... with sticks! Now, for those familiar with the band, **Rich Mulryne** is best known for



hammering out his rhythm with gloved fingers but it seems after years of searching he has rediscovered his sticks, or maybe they're wooden spoons from the kitchen draw – it's too fast to see. The spring is wound up slowly, the inertia is released and the heady freedom of '*Social Vertigo*' is released in every bar around the country. 'Money' rolls in from the new '*Year Of The Clown*' album, enriching our life, if not our pockets. Talk of social inequalities brings protestations and '*We Are Revolution*' cuts the air as Tim works the strings, the song's hypnotic pulse flows through, sanitising the world for our children.

Insanely frenetic whirling music turns the '*World On Its Head*'. The floor seems to be alive, a moving mass attune with the vaudeville scenario of the stage. You can't overlook the wonderful waltz of '*Days Of The Dance*'. The song builds steadily, detonating as the whole room is gyrating madly to this unstoppable, whirling dervish dish of devility. The spring snaps and the drive winds a spent force.

Rich has thrown his sticks aside, the gloves are on and it's a fight to the end. It's '*Hubbadillia*', a frivolous new world and, as caution is thrown to the wind, 3DM can do no wrong - it's the last round. The '*Antiquated and Arcane*' slips from Athene's lips and when Tim's 12 string enriches the air, you just know it's going to get dark and dangerously mad. It's no disappointment. Jamie leaps about wielding his heavyweight six shooter while Rich is in full fevered flow, thwacking the cymbals and skins, beating up the rich elixir as a morass of gyrating acolytes are bouncing off the floor and walls.

I can only hint at the atmosphere generated by the bands on this evening. Go see them, make up your own mind as no matter what your musical bent, you'll be hooked - the **Hawthornes** and **3 Daft Monkeys** are a feast to savour. Check out their websites, find that gig, put the cat out and just go.

Graham Munn



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## Talent to the Nth degree

They are young, fearless and immensely talented. Appreciated by critics and audience alike, the quintet mysteriously named **Nth Cave** is taking the West Midlands music scene by storm. They are yet to release their debut album and their members may not be old enough to enter the venues they play unaccompanied, but their music and stage presence are drawing crowds that would make senior or well accomplished acts jealous. SLAP Magazine sat down with brothers, Hector and Fergus Brazier to learn more about the wonder kids of Worcestershire.

**SLAP:** **Nth Cave** is a very unusual name. Can you tell us where does it come from?

**Nth Cave:** *The first period of nth caves existence we went pretty much unlabelled, because we weren't really regularly gigging and we had no real original material to share with anyone. At this point, our high school music teacher would refer to us as "Danni and the Elements", which we met with quite a large amount of disdain but we had no real other ideas for band names so we kind of went with it for a bit. After a while we started playing about with some 'band name generators' on the internet. After a few hundred attempts it churned out "nth cave" which we all agreed 'isn't really too terrible'. And I think that's how we all feel now. It's not too terrible but it really isn't great. It just does its job as a band name.*

**SLAP:** You started out as a 4 piece but expanded by adding Lauren Mulhearn on bass before your original bassist Alfie Newman moved to second guitar. How did the line up change affect you musically?

**Nth Cave:** *Nth Cave was always intended really to be a quintet. We actually started out in high school as a five piece. However the second guitarist just had too many other commitments so we started gigging as a four piece. But with the majority of the songs and covers being designed for a band with dual guitars, there was a notable 'emptiness' about our sound. This is when we started looking for a bassist, who appeared in the form of Lauren Mulhearn via Twitter DMs. After a couple of rehearsals she was up to speed with our whole set and we started gigging as a five.*

**SLAP:** Your guitar player Fergus and drummer Hector are brothers. Yay or nay for having your sibling in a band? Is any sibling rivalry involved in the music making process?

**Fergus:** *Nah there's no rivalry, as long as we've both played instruments we've jammed together so we're normally pretty aware of each other's styles and mannerisms in music.*

**Hector:** *There's no problem with siblings being in bands together, I doubt that anyone can't think of a band with brothers or sisters. Oasis, Peace, Cage the Elephant, The Jesus and Mary Chain, and that's only a few. Oasis may not have ended that well but their initial success or any bands' success isn't hindered by having siblings together in the band.*



**SLAP:** Sonically you place yourself between Wolf Alice and Nirvana. Who else would appear on your wall of fame?

**Hector:** *Personally I see nth cave as the coming together of a wide array of genres and styles, with band members contributing to our songs based upon their own musical upbringing. With individual influences ranging from jazz to hip-hop to pop punk, our music is filled with hyper-subtle references to some of this music. I would like to point out that nth cave are most certainly not a "jazz, hip-hop, pop punk group" - that honestly sounds disgusting. It is because of this, however, that sometimes it can be quite hard to place our "middle ground" musically.*

**Fergus:** *Nth Cave's "wall of fame" really does have to include some of the artists that we regularly cover like The Strokes, Pixies and The Wytches. I would say, it's through covering artists like this that we have really started to improve our own work taking influence from the upbeat guitar driven pop sound of The Strokes, the intense dynamics of Pixies, and even some of the sonic elements found within the heavy lo-fi surf rock of The Wytches.*

**SLAP:** Our favourite track is entitled "Bass". You even shot a popular video at the Birmingham City University. Can you tell us something about the song and video?

**Nth Cave:** *The student who was our main contact for it was Petko who was a technician at an acoustic gig we played. He decided that we were the kind of band he wanted for his music video module so he chose one of our songs and we got an audio recording session and a video recording session at BCU. We heard from someone recently that part of the most recent Star Wars film was filmed in the same studio as our video which is insanely cool if it's true.*

**SLAP:** After a string of successful singles, it is time for a full length release. Can you tell us more about your first album?

**Nth Cave:** *Well we're still deciding what would best for us, to release an EP or a full album. Either way we want to go to the studio soon. For now though we're happy with working on our material and gigging. We really, really hope there will be an album eventually though.*

**SLAP:** Your future is already looking bright but things will only get better. What can we expect from you guys in the months to come?

**Nth Cave:** *To be honest we've got no set big plans other than the occasional gig. As far as our own material goes, it's just a case of getting some recording sessions done. We certainly have enough original work to put together an album, it just all depends on what opportunities arise for us. And hey, if someone wants to offer us a sweet record deal we'd consider it. Hopefully this'll be the busiest and most progressive year for nth cave and we'll just keep up what we're doing and see where it takes us.*

You can follow **Nth Cave** online at:

[www.facebook.com/nthcave](https://www.facebook.com/nthcave) [www.soundcloud.com/nthcave](https://www.soundcloud.com/nthcave)

[twitter.com/nthcave](https://twitter.com/nthcave) [www.instagram.com/nthcave](https://www.instagram.com/nthcave)

Read the full interview by Rita Dabrowicz (Vanadian Avenue) at:

<https://cocamidemea.wordpress.com>





# Andy O'Hare

Every year since the Intro show started back in 2005 (then called the Friday Session of course) I've compiled a Top Ten - not of the best H&W acts I've seen during the year, but of the best new local and original songs that've really made some sort of impact on me - ones that passed what used to be called the 'old grey whistle test' for tunefulness and memorability. Every now and then I take another look (and listen) to the best from over that time that I've distilled into an all-time Top Twenty and maybe add or slightly shuffle the order around a bit - a bloke's got to have a little hobby in his life...

I'm not going to name them just here or which very soulful ditty is at the #1 position - you might be able to guess some of them or at the very least a few of the artists - I've mentioned them here often enough! But what never ceases to amaze me is the stunning quality of most of them when by all rights they should have received far greater publicity, airplay and recognition than they deserved - and for me (and obviously the acts themselves also) I think that's a crying shame.

I was listening to Pink Floyd's original and longest serving member, drummer Nick Mason on the radio the other day and he said that as an act they would have no chance whatever in today's music marketplace - with the main emphasis on discovering new music being via streaming services. There seems to be evidence from bodies such as the BPI that online discoveries translate to a certain extent into physical sales - with vinyl currently being one of the main beneficiaries.

Nick mentioned that it used to be the case that if a record company fancied an act recommended to them by their A&R people, it wasn't such a big investment to pay for a few days in a studio to record a couple of songs for a 7" single, press a couple of thousand records and then get their pluggers to distribute the records to 'friendly' DJs and radio stations... Sure there were scandals then such as the various payola affairs - but in all fairness the music industry has never been a shining beacon of honesty and fairness - with iniquities such as pay-to-play being one of the current manifestations of the shiftiness that has always been there...

If the record bombed the record companies hadn't lost a great deal of money - and it could be argued that this system offered opportunities to acts that might not have had the chance - like Pink Floyd for example... However the cost of launching a new act now can reach into the millions - no wonder the record companies are less willing to take this risk and stick to the same tried and tested artists.

Yes there's plenty of opportunities now for new bands to publish their own music and 'get it out there' - it's just that the music industry doesn't start to get interested until an act gets a million streams or more - which by itself earns the artist themselves about £100 or so - and even when signed the returns from physical record sales are nowhere near the levels of the past...

Of course the main beneficiary of this has been the music listening public who now have a bewildering variety of music to choose to hear - and not many tears are shed over the record companies declining profits (except for the mega-acts) as the general consensus is that they've been screwing over the public for decades - tough!

So not such great news for the music industry - but equally still it's the vast majority of aspiring musicians who are trapped in the middle with little hope of breaking through - no matter how brilliant their music is - and as mentioned there's plenty of that just in our own region - I know because I've got most of it myself!!

Have to say myself that in my view a great first step towards promoting new music and artists would be if there were more music programmes on mainstream TV - essentially at the moment we have just one! Yes of course it's dear old Jools whose two or three series a year with exactly the same formula of established acts (occasionally nice to see but they've had their own day), a world music act and someone he can jam along with in his own choogly-woogly style. Yes there's usually one new act - but they're not necessarily UK-based - and with its very MOR approach to featured artists, some genres such as metal don't get a look-in...

New music isn't in a good way at the moment - of course the BBC Intro scheme is a very fine effort at trying to redress the balance back in favour of artists - but of course I'd say that wouldn't it? Perhaps what's also needed is a person of the calibre of John Peel who's trusted and able to communicate the benefits of new music to the public!

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



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# Preview

## Music in the Hall-Chastity Brown Tale Lights, Two's Company

St George's Hall, Bewdley | Friday 9 June 2017

Music in the Hall have achieved the unbelievable by bringing the fast rising American star **Chastity Brown** to **St Georges Hall** for their June event.

Based in Minnesota, but with roots in Tennessee, Chastity grew up surrounded by country and soul music. In the full gospel church of her childhood, she played saxophone and drums and found her singing voice and a passion for music. Her first show was in Knoxville, TN, and then it was on to Minneapolis.



Since then, she's been featured on NPR's "Favorite Sessions," CMT, American Songwriter, the London Times, Paste Magazine and others. She has toured the U.S. and abroad, appearing on the U.K.'s Later...with Jools Holland. For much of 2016, she toured alongside folk icon/activist Ani DiFranco. Her latest album "Silhouette of Sirens" is glorious and has been on our players for weeks now and this is truly an artist going places.

The main support act this month is Bewdley's own **Tale Lights** who have been described as the strongest unsigned duo in the UK today and are currently getting a lot of airplay on the BBC.



**Ben Keen** and **Dan Francois-Smith** don't do anything by halves. They grew up as friends and went to school together. They joined bands and they formed bands, the most significant of which was **Kairos** - a band that received more than just a nod from London and Midlands promoters.

Now a self-sufficient duo, **Tale Lights** are two committed writers of truly memorable and melodic songs and two accomplished performers with strongly blended vocal harmonies and a real sense of purpose.

The youth act for the evening is locals **Two's Company** featuring the highly accomplished vocal harmonies of **Lauren Hall** and **Beth Dalton** who never fail to deliver spine-tingling sets. This is sure to be yet another top class night of music from start to finish!



# What's On?

at The Swan Theatre  
and Huntingdon Hall



**Joe Broughton's Conservatoire Folk Ensemble – 20th Anniversary Year!**  
3rd June - £17



**Cider with Rosie**  
6th - 10th June - £16



**Cloudbusting - The Music of Kate Bush**  
17th June - £16.50



**I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again...Again!**  
23rd June - £15



**THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY**  
30th June - £18.50



**The Temperance Seven**  
16th June - £17



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🎵 DEBBIE BOND LAURA HOLLAND 🎵 SAM GREEN AND THE MIDNIGHT HEIST 🎵 CONNIE LUSH 🎵 DR  
SCHWAMP 🎵 ROY METTE 🎵 ELLES BAILEY 🎵 BENNY GALLAGHER 🎵 TIPITINA 🎵 CATFISH 🎵 OFFICIAL  
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# WMF Announcements



## WORCESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

15-17 September 2017

**Worcester Music Festival** has announced the first 50 bands who are set to play at this year's tenth anniversary celebration. More than 200 emerging artists will play at the festival when the line up is complete.

The festival is a free event with the only catch being you have a good time and donate as much as you can to this year's chosen charity, **St Paul's Hostel**. The Hostel provides 24 hour emergency care as well as supporting those at risk of homelessness. Over the past year, they've worked with over 300 people and the money that will be raised at this year's event will go towards a new scheme in which the charity help those staying with them to learn a musical instrument.



So far nearly 20 venues are lined up to take part, including some of Worcester's most prominent live music venues including **The Marris Bar** and **The Firefly** as well as some newer locations like **Bottles wine bar**. The diverse range of venues are just one way that Worcester are showing themselves to be fully dedicated to supporting emerging artists.

The promoters involved in this year's festival are busy pulling together a diverse line-up for all music lovers to enjoy. **SLAP** will be putting on a fun night with **Calm Like A Riot** and the exciting **Malarkey** who produce 'dancehall punx' that



share more than a few influences from Ska, Ragga and even Grunge. Meanwhile **Surprise Attacks** will be hosting a noisy one with the likes of Rock/Punk **Black Boxes**, Psych-Proggers **Insomnichord** and **Pablo Alto** who proudly mix Garage and Psych. Another act chosen for this night is **The Hungry Ghosts** who took to the stage at May's **UnCover** and treated the audience to their insane mix of garage glues and trash rock that hint at the likes of Primal Scream with a dabbling of spiritualist socialism stirred in to sweeten.

**Cynical Thrills** will be hosting **Chambers**, a dark twisted duo following in the footsteps of the other brash twosomes such as **Slaves** and **Royal Blood**. Ramping up support from industry figureheads, this will be a set not to miss. Also piquing interest will be the aforementioned **UnCover** night, hosting **FEET**, a whimsical indie garage rock band that will be bound to blow you off your you know what's.

Keep your eye out for other upcoming loud talents such as **MeMe Detroit** who will be bringing an 'indie grunge wave of sublimity' to **Rhythm & Booze's** night. Playing alongside them will be **The Boston Shakers** who craft electronic rock & roll fresh out of Liverpool. Local music extraordinaires **Arcadia Roots** will also be bringing their world, dance, blues and roots music to Graham Munn's night at **The Chestnut** on Sunday.

So, with a line-up this juicy, we dare you not to be tempted to the **Worcester Music Festival on 15-17 September**.

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





# The Beat Goes On! at Reet Petite, Leominster

Six months, that's just 182 days (and only 26 weekends!). What can be achieved in six months as a small business in a small town in Herefordshire...? Well if your name is **Hester Beswick** or **Abi Clarke**, owners of the **Reet Petite** in Leominster, only recognition as one of the top small music venues in the whole of the UK!

The popular West Street music spot rose out of the notorious ashes of the **Blue Note** and **Sparky's** to bag a nomination in May's Small Business Awards, held in London's trendy Spittlefields. Hester and Abi had originally hedged their bets and applied for the "New Kid on the Block" category which celebrates new businesses (being just six months old), but were entered into the "Beat Goes On" category based on their exceptional, innovative and creative use of music on a daily basis. This was the only category supported by the music experts PRS and included the most diverse selection of business from across the country.

The sisters reopened the venue, previously a well known jazz bar, at the end of 2016 with a clear mission statement- to bring live music back to the town in a friendly, all welcoming environment and actively promote and nurture the county's scene. They're obviously very dedicated to the cause, hosting live music acts every single Saturday along with monthly jazz, blues, drum and bass, acoustic and jam nights; even a vinyl appreciation evening for us older folks and under 18s open mic for the younger musicians out there! To date they've booked artists from near and far, from Ludlow to Long Island and many places in between with a fantastic summer planned.



So, the nomination for innovative use of music is definitely well earned....how did they do?

Sadly the girls were pipped at the post on the night by The Revival Retro Boutique, a funky London based vintage clothing retailer but reflecting on the experience Hester is philosophical "Yeah, we didn't win; but what we did do was get nominated for a national award for the work we've done this year with local artists, get shortlisted to five in the whole country and met some wonderful people along the way. Next year...!"

Keep up with the **Reet Petite** girls on Facebook, for bookings drop them a PM: [www.facebook.com/reetpetite18](https://www.facebook.com/reetpetite18).

Also Look out for some bigger names coming soon such as **Troy Redfern** and **Under A Banner**

Nickie Bates

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## Thursday 01 June 2017

**Just Adam**

Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern, Ludlow

**Surprise Attacks Presents:**

**Soden (Album Launch), Black Boxes, Women Hereos, Worcester**

**Troublesome Trio**

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

**The Steve Ajao Blues Giants**

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Bobbo Byrnes**

Tank, Gloucester

**Mark Stevenson**

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Uncorked! Poetry Evening With Holly Daffurn**

Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

## Friday 02 June 2017

**Blues Night With John Snocken**

Reet Petite, Leominster

**Macca & Adam**

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**Loose Lips**

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

**Wolfren Riverstick**

The Red Lion, Evesham

**Ardvark Stow, Pisse Of Piddle**

The Bridge Inn, Worcester

**Open Mic Night: Beginners To Pros Welcome, The Reverend**

**Ferriday; Awesome Slide Blues**

The Kings Head, Tenbury Wells

**Misfit Pearl And The Oddfellows**

De Koffie Pot, Hereford

**Amie**

The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**The Liquor And Poker Band**

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Big Wolf Band**

Queens Head, Wolverley

**Wootown 2**

The Berkeley Arms, Tewksbury

**Cheltenham Connections - The Wolves**

Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Frazer Leford**

The Stable, Cheltenham

**Daniel Billing Band**

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

**The Soap Girls**

The Iron Road, Evesham

**Voodoo Stone**

Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Fred'S House**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Lounge Toad**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Bringing On Back The 60S**

The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**The Underground Revolution Presents A Funky Reggae**

**Party, DJ Bds Silva From Last Tree Squad, Fowokan Reggae**

**Band, Alvin & The Angry Barrels,**

The Booth Hall, Hereford

**The Phonics (Stereophonics)**

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**The Follicles**

The Lodge, Stourbridge

**Wingwalkers**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**The Jive Aces**

The Roses, Tewkesbury

**Ignition Presents - Rustlung, Parkhurst, Her Cursed Words**

**& The Skeletons**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**The Pale Kings, Charley Wilde**

The Talbot Inn, Bewdley

**The Murmur, Some Other Beings**

Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

**Delray Rockets**

The Rose And Crown, Tenbury

**Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds**

The Bluebell, Upton-Upon-Severn

**The Official Receivers**

The Marris Bar, Worcester

**The Cabal**

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Big Jim And The Black Cat Moans**

Talbot, Knightwick

**48 SLAP JUNE**

**Jon Eselle**

The Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Hump De Bump & Friends - from 4pm**

The Chestnut, Worcester

**Gunnrunner**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

## Saturday 03 June 2017

**Stoned Cherries**

Cafe At The Stores, Colwall

**Flatworld**

Reet Petite, Leominster

**Hickory Stick Boys**

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**The Transfers**

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

**The Britpop Boys - 90'S Tribute Band, Britpop & 90'S Night,**

**Followed By 90'S Dj Night, in Aid Of St.Michael's Hospice**

The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Malc Evans**

The Rising Sun, Bewdley

**Chicago Bytes; Rock, Indie, Rnb Covers**

The Kings Head, Tenbury Wells

**Matahari**

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

**Sax Appeal**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

**The Upstairs**

Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Ruzz Guitar's Blues Revue**

The Berkeley Arms, Tewksbury

**Blue Street**

The Bayshill, Cheltenham

**Big Bad Wolf**

The Stable, Cheltenham

**No Fit State**

The Exmouth Arms, Cheltenham

**Luke Phillbrick**

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Voodoo Room - A Night Of Hendrix & Cream Voodoo Room**

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**O.C.D**

The Swan, Evesham

**The Big Wolf Band**

Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Steve Descher Soul And Motown**

The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

**Gloucestershire Battle Of The Bands - The Final**

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

**No Parkin Blues Band**

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

**Hills Angels**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The Rebels**

The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Back In The Band**

Woodland Cottage, Redditch

**Bitteroots, Paul Rose Dictatorship, Gazza T, John Coutts,**

Worcester Acoustic Music Sessions @ St Swithun's Hall, Worcester

**The Subterraneans**

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Toby**

The Oak Apple, Worcester

**Alex Jayne**

Claptrap The Venue, Stourport-On-Severn

**Gigabite**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Sgt. Pepper'S Lonely Hearts Club Band 50th Anniversary Concert**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**The Encore**

Railway Inn, Studley

**Joe Broughton'S Conservatoire Folk Ensemble**

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Nikki Rous**

The Bell Inn, Leominster

**Local Night - Sudio Suki, Electric Soup, Stan The Bastard**

**& Time Of The Mouth**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

**The Ranters**

Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

**The Contortionist, Bad Sign, I The Lion, Valis Ablaze**

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Starving Rascals**

Talbot, Knightwick

**Jon Eselle**

The Pillar Of Salt, Droitwich



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2nd - Big Wolf Band

9th - Still Crazy

16th - Big Jim & the Black Cat Bone

23rd - Stev Ajao & the Blues Giants

30th - Bourbon Alley

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**The Paul Rose Dictorship, Gazza T, John Courtts, Bitterroots**  
St Swithun's Institute Hall, Worcester

**Groovyhead**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

### Sunday 04 June 2017

**Olly Wharton Presents Electric Church**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**Kim Cypher's Sunday Jazz (1pm)**  
The Stable, Cheltenham

**Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic) Griff Collins (4pm)**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Trafficker (4pm)**  
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Baroque Evening With Dave Ayre And Friends**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Olugbala Kukomo (4pm)**  
Alestones, Redditch

**The Exiles**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**The Quo Experience**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

**Rock And Roll Party in The Park (11am-6pm)**  
Riverside Meadows, Stourport-On-Severn

**Journeyman (5.30pm)**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Jasper Malone Solo**  
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

### Tuesday 06 June 2017

**The Pure Conjecture**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Linerunners**  
The Angel Inn, Abergavenny

### Wednesday 07 June 2017

**Blues Appreciation Night**  
De Koffie Pot, Hereford

**Elephant Sessions**  
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

### Thursday 08 June 2017

**Vinyl Night**  
Reet Petite, Leominster

**Troublesome Trio**  
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

**Luke Philbrick**  
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

**The Chicago Bytes**  
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Steve Ferbrache**  
Tank, Gloucester

**The Bonfire Radicals**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**The Gledhills**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Edge**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

### Friday 09 June 2017

**Protea Skies, Hindbrain**  
Monroe's Cellar Bar, Worcester

**Brian T Williams**  
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

**Claire L. Shaw**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Tom And Christie**  
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**Still Crazy**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Bryn Thomas**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

**The Who - Who's Next**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Mr Marko's Space Emporium**  
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

**Michael Knowles and the STDs Album Launch, The Foreign Quarter**  
The Marris Bar, Worcester

**Vice Squad**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**The Straight Aces**  
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**The Lewis Boulton Trio**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The Bon Jovi Experience**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

### **Chicago Bytes**

The Blue Bell, Ryall

### **The Strangers**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### **The Manfreds**

The Roses, Tewkesbury

### **Chastity Brown**

St George's Hall, Bewdley

### **Culture Shock, Lobster, Millie Manders And The Shut Ups, & Vault Of Dub**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **James Matthey**

Monroes Cellar Bar, Worcester

### **The Red Paintings, Other Animals, Cupcake Diaz & The Felt Tip Pens**

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

### **Chastity Brown, Tale Lights, Two's Company**

St George's Hall, Bewdley

### **Pablo Alto, Raptor, As Mamas**

The Royal Hall, Ledbury

### **Skrood**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

## **Saturday 10 June 2017**

### **Mumbo Jumbo**

Cafe At The Stores, Colwall

### **Pablo Alto**

Reet Petite, Leominster

### **Jibbafish**

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

### **The Final 4**

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

### **Toria Phillips**

The Rising Sun, Bewdley

### **Gets Worse, Conqueror Worm, This Ends Here, Dark Mother, Noiseaxe**

The Bridge Inn, Worcester

### **Bryn Teeling**

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

### **Gary Roberts**

The Green Dragon, Malvern

### **Emi Mcdade, Joe Dolman, Isaaco, Russ Poole**

Blackfriars (Upper East Range), Gloucester

### **Jessica Rhodes**

The Stable, Cheltenham

### **Mr Love And Justice**

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

### **Blackmax And The Pirates**

The Swan, Evesham

### **The Chronicles of Zee**

Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

### **Mused (Muse Tribute), The Switch**

The Marrs Bar, Worcester

### **Emi Mcdade**

Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

### **Chalky Martin**

The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

### **Monkey Jam**

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

### **Babajack**

Artrix, Bromsgrove

### **Rosie Bans, Tyler Massey**

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

### **Richard Navarro**

The Globe, Hay On Wye

### **Hennesea**

The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

### **The Strangers**

The Cross Keys, Malvern

### **Hidden Gardens And Sculpture Of Rodborough**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### **Plink Twank Holler**

The Bull, Fernhill Heath

### **Kemastree**

Woodland Cottage, Redditch

### **Eastwood**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

### **Toby**

The Virgin Tavern, Worcester

### **Patsy Cline & Friends**

Subscription Rooms, Stroud

### **Accolade**

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

### **Old Raskals**

Railway Inn, Studley

### **Stiff Joints, Citizen Fish, Malarkey & Flat Stanley**

The Boars Head, Kidderminster

### **Delray Rockets**

The Three Lions, Stourport-On-Severn

### **Voodoo Stone**

The Barn Venue, Bewdley

### **Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds**

The Express Inn, Malvern

### **Chris Bigs Laser Disco**

The Bell Inn, Leominster

### **Protocol**

The Bell, St Johns Worcester

### **Pete Hyde & Friends**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Jack Blackman, Maria Barham, The Grimaldi Band, Set Em Up Joe**

Hellens Garden Festival, Pumpkin Sessions, Much Marcle

## **Sunday 11 June 2017**

**Jenny Hallam, Foregate Street Blues, Puffer, Way Out West**  
Hellens Garden Festival, Pumpkin Sessions, Much Marcle

### **Sunday Live Open Mic With Gaf Franks**

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

### **Lazy Sunday: L B Robinson, Claire Boswell, Stuart Woolfenden**

Cafe Bliss, Worcester

### **Tom Westwood**

The Stable, Cheltenham

### **Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic) Stuart Davies (4pm)**

The Red Lion, Evesham

### **Blues Business - Road Dogs (3-5pm)**

Richmond Place Club, Hereford

### **Zoe Green Band (4pm)**

The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

### **Amie**

The Bell Inn, Worcester

### **Malvern Hillbillies**

Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

### **Jim Reynolds**

Little Vic, Stroud

### **Vo Fletcher & Tyler Massey (5:30pm)**

The Chestnut, Worcester

### **Claire Boswell (Folk/Acoustic)**

Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

## **Wednesday 14 June 2017**

### **Acoustic Folk Session**

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

### **Mark Leedham, John Madden, Dot3**

The Bayshill, Cheltenham

### **Primitive Noise**

Vonnies Blues Club, Cheltenham

### **Le Skeleton Band**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### **Coyote Grove Debut Album Launch**

Claptrap The Venue, Stourport-On-Severn

### **The Vogwells**

Mr Twitchetts Coffee House And Bar, Stroud

### **Fozzy, Hell's Addiction, Junior, Fights And Fire**

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

## **Thursday 15 June 2017**

### **Wes Dance**

The Plough, Worcester

### **Devon Mason**

Tank, Gloucester

### **The Underscore Orchestra**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

### **Thunderpussy**

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

## **Friday 16 June 2017**

### **Madi Stimpson Trio**

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

### **National Morris Weekend**

The Red Lion, Evesham

### **Polly And Kristian**

The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

### **Big Jim & The Black Cat Bone**

Queens Head, Wolverley

### **The Corduroy Kings**

The Berkeley Arms, Tewksbury

### **Club Babe Presents: Nth Cave, Hedgehog Atc, Crying Politely**

The Booth Hall, Hereford

### **The Charlton Blues Kings**

The Stable, Cheltenham

### **Harmonica Nick And Friend**

The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud



**The Stiff Joints**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**The Maz Mitrenko Band**  
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Clwb Comedy + Music From Phil King**  
The Globe, Hay On Wye

**G & T Mix**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Vehicle**  
Red Man, Kidderminster

**John And Maggie Carty**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Faux Fighters**  
The Swan, Staunton

**David Bowie - Jean Geanie**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Protocol**  
The Blue Bell, Ryall

**Mambo Jambo**  
Ginger Pig Cafe & Bistro, Worcester

**The Alchemist's Wardrobe Album Launch Concert**  
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

**Shaun Mosely**  
The Little George, Stroud

**The Temperance Seven – Grand Diamond Jubilee Tour**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**Roving Crows**  
Colwall Village Hall, Colwall

**Goblins, Sickones, Shattered Youth, Hold Tight**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Charlie Healy**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Black Knight**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Bryan Adams Experience**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

## Saturday 17 June 2017

**The Troy Redfern Band**  
Reet Petite, Leominster

**Screaming Dead, The Loan Sharks, Chinese Burn, Screaming Dead Book Signing**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**Mod Band**  
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

**Passion**  
The Rising Sun, Bewdley

**Under A Banner, Headsticks**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Gravy Train**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewksbury

**The Ukulele Festival Of Great Britain 2017 (From 9Am)**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Monkey Jam**  
The Bayshill, Cheltenham

**Twisted Clef Presents: A49 Punk Connection**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Madi Stimpson Trio**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Thunderpussey**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Faithful City Shows: And The Hangnails, The Harts + Support**  
Rise Records, Worcester

**Junction 7**  
The Swan, Evesham

**The Underdogs**  
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Vincent And Pablo**  
The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

**Junior Bill**  
The Globe, Hay On Wye

**Life (Jazz Trio)**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Beth Harrison**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Robinson-Stone - The Life & Music Of Clifford T Ward**  
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

**Adam Beattie**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Crackers 88's**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Maetloaf & The Never Neverland Express**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**The Comet Is Coming**  
Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud

**Skrood**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**The Coopers**  
Railway Inn, Studley

**Roy Orbison & The Travelling Wilburys Tribute Show**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

**Cloudbusting – Kate Bush Tribute**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**The Rouges**  
The Bell Inn, Leominster

**Midsummer Ceilidh With Banter**  
The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

**Autumn**  
New Inn, Pershore

**Polary, Cali'o, The Forever Greens, Midweek**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Skabucks**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Taylor & Co**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

## Sunday 18 June 2017

**Olly Wharton Presents Electric Church**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**Stolen Chocolates**  
The Stable, Cheltenham

**Lazy Sunday Afternoon (Purely Acoustic) With Guy Challenger (4pm)**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Totally Tina!**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Stone Mountain Sinners (4pm)**  
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Perry Foster**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**Lydbrook Band**  
Subscription Rooms, Stroud

**Delray Rockets**  
Worley's The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Jon Esole**  
Albion House Club, Cheltenham

**Air Of The Dog (2pm)**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Will Killeen (5.30pm)**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

**Ben Vickers Reggae/Soul DJ Set**  
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

## Wednesday 21 June 2017

**Concierto**  
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

**Wildwood Jack**  
Mr Twitchetts Coffee House And Bar, Stroud

## Thursday 22 June 2017

**Rob Mcewan**  
Tank, Gloucester

**Ian Luther**  
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Carter Sampson**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Sue Fear & Life**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**King Of Pop – The Legend Continues**  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**Chris Holmes Mean Man, Alexa De Strange**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

## Friday 23 June 2017

**Shadow Flag Album Launch**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**Chevy Bel Air Band**  
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

**Steve Turner, Open Mic Night**  
Jinney Ring Folk Festival, Bromsgrove

**The Strangers**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**G&T Mix**  
The Bush Inn, St. Johns, Worcester

**Steve Ajao & The Blues Giants**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Poetry Slam**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewksbury

**Hereford Heavy Presents: Ascaris, Conflicts Uk, The Seventh Circle, Enmerkar**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Eva Jacobs**  
The Stable, Cheltenham

**The Dub Thieves**  
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud  
**King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys**  
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**Rule Number 1**  
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Livewire - The AC/DC Show**  
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

**The Searchers**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Battle Of The Bands**  
Worcester Rugby Club, Worcester

**Kim Rydr**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**Frazer Lefford**  
The Pheasant Inn, Toddington

**Toyah Willcox**  
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**The Spacehoppers**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**The Smiths Ltd**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**An Evening With The Dreamers**  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**Crime & Punishment 2011, Gilmour, You Know The Drill**  
**(Acoustic Set), Kick The Clown, M.C - Junkie**  
The Bridge Inn, Worcester

**The Daniel Wakeford Experience, Discount Colombo,**  
**Kelso, Tom Cassidy**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
Shakespeare County Raceway, Stratford Upon Avon

**Final Warning**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**The Lightweight, Noughts & Crosses, More Tbc**  
Worcester Rugby Club, Worcester

## Saturday 24 June 2017

**Freeborn Rising**  
Reet Petite, Leominster

**Lorise & The Stealers**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**Terry Stevens**  
The Rising Sun, Bewdley

**The Debbie Parry Band (High Heels & Sneakers)**  
The Green Dragon, Malvern

**The After Dark Band**  
The Park Gate Inn, Bromsgrove

**Forever Black Sabbath**  
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

**Trevor Streger**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewksbury

**Blues Brothers (Film), Black Cat Bone (Performance),**  
**Landis' (Film): From 5pm**  
Worcester Brewing Company, Worcester

**Dirty Brass, Ferral Waves, Mark Barrett, Polkadot Robot,**  
**The Barbs, Jose Rosa, Dr Cornelius, The Backbones**  
Puddle Wharf Farm, Bromsgrove

**Jibbafish**  
The Bayshill, Cheltenham

**The Desperados**  
The Stable, Cheltenham

**Ed Sheeran Tribute Night**  
Amber Cafe, Evesham

**Jan Vaisey and Ian Harvey**  
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

**Uk Beach Boys**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Big Fat Shorty**  
The Swan, Evesham

**Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman, Roving Crows, Ruth**  
**Theodore, The Haunted Souls, Mumbo Jumbo, The Future**  
**Set, Tyler Massey, The Strays**  
Jinney Ring Folk Festival, Bromsgrove

**Ginger Wildheart**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**Sally**  
The Swan (Barbourne), Worcester

**Cara Dillon**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Little Mix**  
Kingsholm Stadium, Gloucester

**The Goodwater**  
The Globe, Hay On Wye

**In Evolution**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**80S Revisted**  
The Cross Keys, Malvern

**Jenny Hallam with Support From, Howard James Kenny**  
Elmslie House, Malvern

**Texas Medicine**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**The Underground Revolution Presents A Night Of Punk,**  
**Xsif, Terminal Rage, Teddy's Leg**  
The Booth Hall, Hereford

**Paarthurnax**  
The Hollybush Inn, Stourport On Severn

**Faith - The George Michael Legacy**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Boogie Street**  
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

**Imaner Jam Night**  
Railway Inn, Studley

**Chicago Bytes Blues Band**  
Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

**Matt Bowen**  
New Inn, Pershore

**Tale Lights**  
The Barn Venue, Bewdley

**Jay & Eli**  
The Queens Arms, Bromyard

**Punk Rock Stars in Their Eyes 2**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Jon Eselle - Olly Murs Tribute**  
The Yardley Arms, Birmingham

**Bourbon Alley Blues Band**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

## Sunday 25 June 2017

**Sunday Live Open Mic With Gaf Franks**  
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

**Lazy Sunday Afternoon (acoustic) With Little Dave (4pm)**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Tom Jones**  
Kingsholm Stadium, Gloucester

**Ian Parker Band (4pm)**  
The Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

**Faith - The George Michael Legacy**  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

**Tyler & Vo**  
Three Kings Inn, Hanley Castle

**The Players (6pm)**  
The Cap n Gown, Worcester

**Polly Edwards & Kringo Blue Live Acoustic**  
Bottles Wine Bar & Merchants, Worcester

**Olly Murs**  
Worcestershire Count Cricket Club, Worcester

**G & T Mix - A Right Royal Stomper**  
The Kings Head, Worcester

**Ray Mytton (5.30pm)**  
The Chestnut, Worcester

## Monday 26 June 2017

**Wildwood Jack**  
The Crown & Sceptre, Stroud

**JB Jazz & Blues Band**  
Kidderminster Harriers FC, Aggborough Suite, Kidderminster

## Tuesday 27 June 2017

**David Lawrence**  
The Barn Venue, Bewdley

## Wednesday 28 June 2017

**Roh: Otello**  
Regal Cinema, Evesham

## Thursday 29 June 2017

**Rule The World**  
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

**Folk in The Foyer: Jimmy Aldridge & Sid Goldsmith**  
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

**Reuben Lovett Supporting The Lurkers & The Vibrator**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**The Bar Room Anthems**  
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**Uncover: The Real Cool, Filiis, Artiphunk**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

**The Bob Dylan Story**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**Shootin' The Crow**  
Tank, Gloucester



**Jenny Lindfors**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**Three Blind Mice**  
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

**Crystal Balloon, Moonlight Drive, Paul Dafurn**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Sally**  
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

**Friday 30 June 2017**

**Acoustic Night With Jade Duncombe**  
Reet Petite, Leominster

**Elmore Row**  
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, Lye, Stourbridge

**Neil Ivison**  
The Red Lion, Evesham

**Drifter**  
Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

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

**Bourbon Alley**  
Queens Head, Wolverley

**Open Mic Night With The Future Set**  
The Berkeley Arms, Tewksbury

**Anewrage (Italy)**  
The Iron Road, Evesham

**Steve Ajao's Blues Giants**  
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

**The Bohemians**  
Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester

**Bromsgrove Concerts Prize Winner's Concert: Toby Hughes**  
Artrix, Bromsgrove

**King Soloman**  
Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucester

**Robert Robinson**  
The Globe, Hay On Wye

**Trevor Babajck Steger**  
The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

**The Counterfeit Seventies**  
The Palace Theatre, Redditch

**Whocat**  
The Prince Albert, Stroud

**The Rubies**  
The Blue Bell, Ryall

**Red Line Ratio**  
Claptrap The Venue, Stourport-On-Severn

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

**Kast Off Kinks**  
The Roses, Tewkesbury

**Diamond – The Ultimate Tribute**  
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

**The Simon & Garfunkel Story – 50th Anniversary Tour**  
The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**Delray Rockets**  
Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

**Chambers, Radiosaurus, 2nd Self, Waves**  
The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

**Junction 7**  
The Millers Arms, Pershore

**Panic Room**  
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

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**Festivals**

**Kidderminster Beer & Cider Festival (1-3 June)**  
Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster

**Flying Pig Beer Festival (2-4 June)**  
Knightwick, Worcester

**Severn Sounds Festival (2-4 June)**  
The Pavilion in the Park, Worcester

**Wychwood Festival (2-4 June)**  
Cheltenham Racecourse, Cheltenham see [wychwoodfestival.com](http://wychwoodfestival.com)

**Asparafest - Music & Food (2-4 June)**  
Badsey, Nr Evesham

**Cheltenham Food & Drink Festival (9-11 June)**  
City, Cheltenham

**Sonic Rock Solstice (16-18 June)**  
Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove ([sonicrocksolstice.com](http://sonicrocksolstice.com))

**Hopfest - Family Music Festival (16-17 June)**  
Hopley's Camping Site, Bewdley see [hopfest.co.uk](http://hopfest.co.uk)

**Tenbury Music Festival (17 June)**  
The Burgage Recreation Ground, Tenbury Wells

**Mappfest 2017 (17-18 June)**  
Malvern Link, Malvern see [mappfest.co.uk](http://mappfest.co.uk)

**Upton Jazz Festival (22-25 June)**  
Town Centre, Upton-upon-Severn

**Jinney Ring Folk Festival (23-24 June)**  
Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Bromsgrove

**Sundogs Festival (24-25 June)**  
Mortimer Park, Leominster

**Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema**

**1st Life Drawing** The Boars Head Gallery, Kidderminster. Finale!

**3rd & 4th Asparafest**, Evesham

**4th Rock & Roll party in the park** Stourport Riverside Meadows

**4th - 3rd Sept Synthetic Landscapes**, Weston Park, Staffs

**6th-10th Cider with Rosie** The Swan Theatre Worcester

**6th - July 1st Hop Project** Kidderminster Library

**6-9th Viceroy's House**, Artrix Bromsgrove

**9th-18th Worcester Litfest** (for listings see page 13)

**11th David Walliams Book Billionaire Boy**, Bewdley Museum

**12th Licensed to Rhyme**. Artrix Bromsgrove

**14th Textile Decoration, Fashion and Style**.  
Talk by Georgia Jacobs. Bewdley Museum 7pm

**14th Painting Talks** The Hive, Worcester 7pm

**17th Funk Trunk Vintage** Firefly Worcester

**17th Hopfest Family festival**, Bewdley

**19th until 8th July 'Moving in: Moving On'**, Evesham Library

**21st Raphael Lord of the Arts**, film screening, Artrix Bromsgrove

**22nd until 12th July A taste of Worcestershire Open Studios**.  
Pershore Number 8.

**22nd The Wailing, Splendid Cinema**, Worcester Arts Workshop

**24th until 3rd Sept. Synthetic Landscapes**  
Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

**25th The Selfish Giant**, Malvern Cube, 2.30pm

**27th The Odd Couple**, Coach House theatre Malvern

**30th until 2nd July Evesham Festival of Words**

**30th until 9th July Ledbury Poetry Festival**

**Until 25th Bones of the Landscape**, Bewdley museum

**Sat 1st The Marriage of Figaro**, Elmslie House, Malvern

**Until 16th July 100 years of the Rotary Foundation**  
Bewdley Museum

**Until 10th Sept Embroidered Bodies**. Ashmolean Museum Broadway

# Music Sessions/Open Mics

## **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 & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights**

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

## **Every Tues - Jazz Night**

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

## **Every Tuesday - Plug n Play**

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

## **First Tues - Open Mic with Andy Lindsey & Zoe Devenish**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

## **Last Tues - Folk Night**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

## **First Tues - Folk Session run by Phil Knowles**

Rose and Crown, Feckenham

## **First Tues - The Courtyard Open Mic Night**

Cafe Bar, The Courtyard, Hereford

## **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

## **3rd Tues - Acoustic Jam Night with Ian Fuller**

The Millers Arms, Pershore

## **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 Tues of Month - Acoustic Session with Mick Morris**

The Bell, Pensax, Worcs

## **1st Tues of Month - Acoustic Session with Pauline Molloy**

The Cardinal's Hat, Worcester

## **1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround**

The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

## **Every Wed - Electric Jam Night**

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

## **Every Wednesday - Ukulele Session**

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

## **Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions**

Green Dragon, Bishops Frome

## **Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions**

Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke

## **Every other Wednesday - Open mic/Sessions**

Fox & Hounds, Breden

## **Every other Wednesday - Folk Sessions**

The Crown, Colwall

## **Every Wednesday - Irish Session**

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

## **Fortnightly Wed Open Mic**

The Queens Head, Redditch

## **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

## **3rd Wed of Month - Celtic folk session**

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

## **Last Wed - Under 18s open mic**

Reet Petite, Leominster

## **Every Thursday - Drumlove Adult Workshop 7.30pm**

The Angel Centre, Worcester

## **Every other Thursday, Open Mic with Dan James**

The Chestnut, Worcester

## **1st Thurs - Folk Session**

Farmers Arms, Wellington Heath

## **1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club**

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

## **Every Thurs - Troublesome Trio**

Cock & Magpies, Bewdley

## **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

## **1st Thursday Polly Edwards Open Mic Jam Night**

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

## **First Thurs - Open Mic**

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

## **Every Thursday - Acoustic Session**

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

## **Every other Thursday, Open Mic**

The Prince Albert, Stroud

## **Every Other Thursday - Open Mic**

The Firefly, Hereford

## **Every Thursday - Local Artists**

The Pheasant, Worcester

## **Every Thursday - Conor Maher & Friends**

Keystones, Worcester

## **Every Thursday - Spoken word 7-9pm**

Abbey Road Coffee, Great Malvern

## **Every Thursday - Folk Night**

The Fleece, Bretforton

## **Every Thursday - Folk Session run by Bob Chance**

Black Swan Muchdew Church, Hereford

## **3rd Thur - Mainly Irish Session**

The King's Head, Tenbury Wells

## **3rd Thur - Jam Session**

Reet Petite, Leominster

## **3rd Thursday - Malvern Storytellers**

The Great Malvern Hotel - £1.50. See [malvernstorytellers.co.uk](http://malvernstorytellers.co.uk)

## **Every 4th Thursday - Open mic night with Blue Street**

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

## **Every 4th Thursday - Session**

New Inn, Malvern

## **Alternate Thurs - Mainly Irish & Scottish Session**

The Morgan, Malvern

## **Every Friday - Somers Trad Folk Club weekly folk night**

The Alma Tavern, Worcester

## **Every Friday - Open mic 7-9pm**

Abbey Road Coffee, Great Malvern

## **1st Fri - Acoustic Session**

The Camp, Grimley

## **2nd Fri - Open mic**

Reet Petite, Leominster

## **3rd Fri (usually) - Beginners/Improvers Session/Workshop**

The Methodist Church, Ledbury

## **Last Fri - Acoustic Session**

The Fox, Monkwood Green, Worcs

## **Every Fri - Irish Session**

St Ambrose Hall, Kidderminster

## **Every Friday Lunch Time - Folk Session**

Three Kings, Hanly Castle

## **Last Friday - Resident band The Future Set**

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

## **2nd Sat (3rd Sat in Feb) - Rushwick Folk Club**

Rushwick Village Hall, Worcester

## **Every Sunday starting at 3:00pm**

The Morgan, Malvern

## **Every Sunday Acoustic Sunday at 7.30pm**

The Wharf, Stourport

## **2nd Sun - Singaround Session**

The Yew Tree Inn, Peterstow, Herefordshire

## **Every Sun 9.30-Midnight - Acoustic Session**

Social Club, West Malvern

## **Every Sun Lazy Acoustic Afternoon with Liz Kirby 4pm**

Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

## **Every Sunday Unplugged 3pm-5pm**

The Iron Road Rock Bar, Evesham

## **2nd Sun - Acoustic Session**

The Hop Pole, Droitwich

## **Sunday afternoon jazz 12.00 - 3.00**

Lichfield Vaults

## **Last Sun - Mixed Acoustic Sessions**

The Bowling Green Inn, Stoke Prior

## **1st & 3rd Sun - Singaround format Session**

The Galton Arms, Himbleton, Worcs

## **Jazz every Sunday 12.30 till 2.30 ish**

Pickled Plum, Pershore

## **2nd Sun - Moonshine Acoustic Jam Club**

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs



TICKETS ON SALE NOW  
CAMPING & GLAMPING  
OPTIONS AVAILABLE

# LAKEFEST

## Goes Hawaiian

10th-14th  
**August**  
2017

PRESENTING

### CASTLE STAGE

## FEEDER THE CHARLATANS IMELDA MAY

Badly Drawn Boy WILKO JOHNSON BAND TURIN BRAKES SETH LAKEMAN ALABAMA3 ASWAD

YAK KILA BROOKS WILLIAMS BAND ERICA PAUL TARRY RBB Roving Cows COLOURING MOSES

### FLOATING GLOBE

BLACKBEARD'S TEA PARTY • MONSTER CEILIDH BAND • RUTH THEODORE • FRED'S HOUSE • ELLES BAILEY  
• WHITE FEATHER COLLECTIVE • ROUND MOUNTAIN GIRLS • UNDER A BANNER • ALBERT MAN • FUTURE SET • TORS  
• NO COWARD SOUL • THE CURIOUS INCIDENT • HARPER'S FERRY • THE MINKE WHALES  
• MARIE-CLAIRE BERREEN & HER HUSBANDS • FLY YETI FLY • LOST BOYS • JOSH FLETCHER

### SECRET IBIZA

ROZALLA • LIQUID LIVE PA • K-KLASS • DREAM FREQUENCY LIVE PA  
THE LEGENDARY DJ SHIPPERS • ELLASKINS • DJ SOS • DJ SNIPS • SION PUGH • VAN-ERIC  
MARK JOHN WINTER • JACK GOODFELLOW • LAURA MAY • NATTALLIE LAWRIE • THE SWING MAN

### FAMILY FUN

HEAPS OF FREE ACTIVITIES

POTTERY LESSONS • FREE PASSENGER RIDES WITH LAND ROVER EXPERIENCE EASTNOR • TINY TOTS RAVE • DJ WORKSHOPS  
PRO BMX DIRT JUMP COMP



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**#Lakefest2017**

# THE MARR'S BAR

JUN JULY 2017



Ginger Wildheart  
Saturday 24th June

Friday 2nd June

**The Official Receivers**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday 9th June

**Michael Knowles and the STDs album launch, The Foreign Quarter**

£5 in advance £7 in advance

Saturday 10th June

**Mused (Muse Tribute), The Switch**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday 16th June

**Bryan Adams Experience**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 17th June

**Under A Banner, Headsticks**

£7 in advance £8 on the door

Thursday 22nd June

**Chris Holmes Mean Man**

£10 in advance £12 on the door

Friday 23rd June

**BroodMother plus more TBC**

£3 in advance £5 on the door

Saturday 24th June

**Ginger Wildheart**

£15 in advance £17 on the door

Thursday 29th June

**UnCover: The Real Cool, FLIIS, Artiphunk**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 30th June

**Panic Room**

£15 in advance £17 in advance

Saturday 1st July

**Soul Stripper (AC/DC), Wizards of Oz**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday 2nd July

**Gaz Brookfield & Company of Thieves**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday 7th July

**Rust For Glory (Neil Young tribute)**

£7 in advance £10 on the door

Thursday 13th July

**B.D. Lenz Trio**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 14th July

**Worcester School of Rock**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Saturday 15th July

**In2minds**

£6 in advance £8 on the door

Friday 21st July

**Motorheadache**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 22nd July

**The Sabbath Years**

£7 in advance £10 on the door

Thursday 27th July

**UnCover: Spinn, Lost Tiger Band, Phones**

£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday 28th July

**Faithful City Shows: WSTR, You Know**

**The Drill, Coast to Coast UK**

£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday 29th July

**The Stone Cutters**

£4 in advance £5 in advance

Wednesdays - Jamming night

Late Saturdays - Midnight till 4. £3

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Marr's Bar and Music City

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

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