

SLAP

Issue 88

Feb 2019

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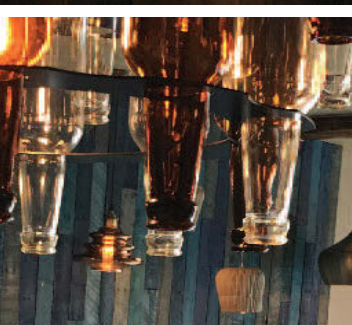
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SLAP

Feb 2019 MAGAZINE

SLAP MAGAZINE

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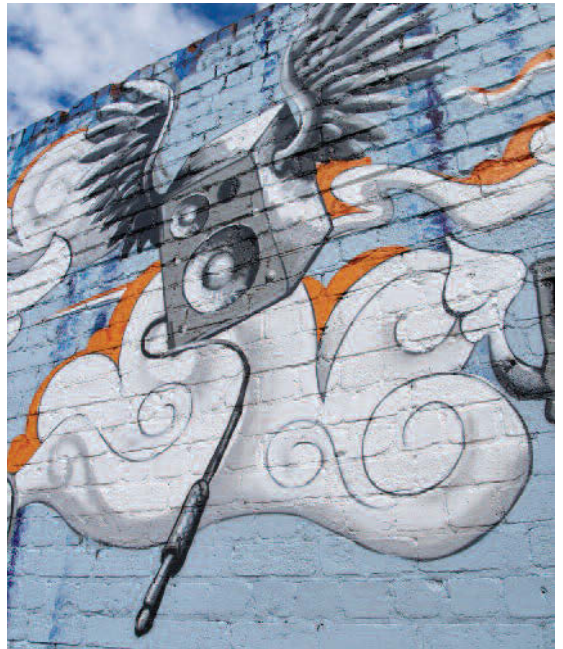
Hello one and all! Exciting times here at SLAP HQ as we go to press on the first issue of the year, coinciding with the start of Independent Venue Week. There are loads of events up and down the country celebrating independent venues and this region is no exception, with events at The Frog and Fiddle in Cheltenham and the Prince Albert in Stroud. We're especially excited here in Worcester to have 6 Music's Steve Lamacq broadcasting his drive time show from BBC H&W before an event at the Marris Bar.

It's worth noting that thanks to the hard work of local promoters, Worcester is bucking the trend with new and interesting small, venues opening at a time when nationally many independent venues are facing closure.

So it's a new year, and we'll soon be moving in to the festival season. It's now the time for artists to submit their festival applications to the vast array of festivals in the UK. There's plenty of on-line resources listing where and how to apply (Sentric Music is one of our faves, with a regularly updated and comprehensive list). Having spoken with festival organisers, they receive thousands of applications, so don't be too despondent if you don't hear back. When it comes to completing an application form, we strongly advise answering the questions in full; for example if they request a link to a music stream platform or your social media links don't just put 'search my band name', they are more than likely to skip over that artist on to a correctly completed application form.

We wish all artists the best of luck with their applications to festivals in the 2019 season.

Excit-Ed



Our cover image is a mural by our featured artist, Worcester based Graham Colledge *Sweetart Murals* from The Lord Clifton in Hockley called "Our Musical Roots". See Page 12.



Spotify

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SLAP FEB 3

New Blood to test Carnival

There's doubt over the future of **Ledbury Carnival** after the failure to reappoint a chairman and vice-chairman to oversee proceedings at its AGM. Although it was agreed that last year's August Bank Holiday event had been a 'resounding success' fresh blood is needed to ensure the Carnival proceeds into its 45th year. Anyone who feels they can help is invited to contact the secretary jill_jupp@hotmail.com

Inside Number 8

Auditions have been completed for this year's **W-Factor**, the talent competition for youngsters aged 11 to 18 from Wychavon in a number of areas such as dance, drama, music and comedy. The showcase final will be held at the **Number 8 Arts Centre** in Pershore on Monday 18 March with the winners receiving training from professional artists to help them develop - and the opportunity to perform at various events during the summer. More at wychavon.gov.uk

Nozstock & Barrell

Nozstock director **Ella Nosworthy** has said that the 2019 festival from 18 to 21 July will be designed to be even more family-friendly with improved camping and increased facilities. The festival was sold out in 2018 with acts including **Chase & Status** and **Goldfrapp** but still hopes to retain the feeling 'like you've wandered into a private party' - For more info see page 32 and get the latest news at www.nozstock.com

Local Soap Opera continues

Good times for local lad **Luke Swatman** who became an internet viral sensation last year after performing *Nessun Dorma* at a karaoke evening at the **Eagle Vaults pub** in Friar Street Worcester. The 35-year old followed local success **Becky Hill** by appearing on ITV's **The Voice** and securing a 'turn' from judge **Jennifer Hudson** at the recently televised 'blind audition' - so will join her team to progress to the next stage of the competition. Despite previously making an appearance on Good Morning Britain Luke was pragmatic about his new-found fame - just saying that 'the story continues' - best of luck chap...

Camra focus's on Beerfest

Slight uncertainty also at **Worcester Beer Festival** despite a record-breaking 9000 attendance at last year's event on Worcester's Pitchcroft with conflicting reports from the previous and current organisers regarding the CAMRA-backed festival's future. However press officer **Bill Ottaway** said that plans were well in place to hold the 20th anniversary event 'with new ideas and improvements' from 8-10 August - but new members to help were always welcome.

New York Seal of approval

Great news for upcoming Worcester multi-instrumentalist **Poppy Waterman-Smith** AKA **Poppy WS** who's been invited to perform at New York's oldest rock club **The Bitter End** after being spotted online by Billy Joel's bassist **Larry Russell**. It's not the first time that Poppy's hard work busking and performing at every venue possible has paid off, as she's previously supported **Seal** at **Bridgewater Hall** in Manchester to an audience of 4000 after being spotted by the chart star busking in the city earlier that day!

4 SLAP FEB

The Berkeley Arms

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Hand made tales @Ledbury

Already one of the most highly-rated events on the literary calendar, **Ledbury Poetry Festival** has an impressive line-up scheduled for this year's event from 5 to 14 July including **Margaret Atwood** and **Ali Smith**, while the festival will be launched with an appearance from **Roger McGough**, reading from his new collection *Joined Up Writing*.

Mello's Out!

Acts have been announced for this year's fourth **Mello Festival** to include **Craig Charles' Funk & Soul Show**, **Brand New Heavies**, **Incognito** and **The Wonder Stuff** following last year's successful relocation to the **Severn End Country Estate** in Hanley Castle. This year's event runs from 24 to 26 May and there's more info and the latest news at www.mellofestival.co.uk

Brexit Stage Left

Local fans of acerbic comedian, broadcaster and award-winning columnist **Mark Steel** are in for a treat as the son of a world backgammon champion will be appearing at **Evesham Arts Centre** on 29 March (!) and a couple of months later at Worcester's **Huntingdon Hall** on 1 June with his 'optimistic' new *Every Little Thing's Going To Be Alright* tour - which he says 'is guaranteed to make the world seem even more mental than it is' - he's probably right...

Bennion the Jets off

Much credit and kudos to **Worcester Music Festival** founder, **Rhythm'n'Booze** blogger, pantomime scriptwriter, indefatigable promoter, plugger, soundman, guardian of the Lea & Perrins sauce formula ('If I told you I'd have to kill you') and all-round good guy **Chris Bennion** who's decided to retire his **Not Just Sauce** front after 15 years of putting on live gigs and being a treasured asset supporting the local music community. Here at SLAP we'd like to thank Chris for his immense contribution over the years and send him, Sarah and his soon-to-be growing family our very best wishes indeed!!

Make Hay Whilst

Early bird tickets have gone on sale for this year's **Hay Festival** which runs from 23 May to 2 June, with confirmed speakers including author **Jared Diamond**, Nobel Prize-winning biologist **Venki Ramakrishnan** and comedian/broadcaster **Sandi Toksvig**. The full programme will be announced on 29 March - more at hayfestival.org

Win-Win for The Berkeley Arms!

There was some amazing news for one of SLAP Magazine's oldest advertisers, **The Berkeley Arms** in Tewkesbury, at the end of last year.

Laurence Mills, the licensee, was awarded the **Wadworth "Best of the Best"** award 2018, for the **'Tenanted Trade Pubs in Bloom'** category.

The Berkeley Arms received their award at the annual "Best of the Best Awards" ceremony, sponsored by Wadworth, a regional pub operator and family brewer with over 200 pubs across the South West of Britain.

Speaking after the ceremony, **Chris Welham**, CEO of Wadworth, commented: *"The 'Best of the Best Awards' is a brilliant event where we can show our appreciation to our great pubs and the people who put their heart and soul into running them. We are very proud of having some of the best pubs in the West Country and these awards give us the perfect opportunity to join together with our managers, business partners and team*



members and recognise their hard work. Pubs just wouldn't be the places they are without the fantastic people running them".

But that wasn't the end of their success, as only days later it was announced that The Berkeley Arms had won the **CAMRA "Pub of the Year"** award for 2018! An absolutely remarkable double.

The Berkeley is a 15th century half-timbered Grade II building, just off The Cross in Tewkesbury town centre. At the rear of the building, there's a barn, haunted apparently, which is believed to be the oldest non-church building in the town. This is used as the dining area and also serves as a meeting room.

There's a sign above the pub door that says *"Real Ales, Real Food, Served in a Real Pub"*, to which we at SLAP would add *"and with Real Music and Poetry, too"*. As well as a regular **Poetry Slam**, there's music both original and covers on Saturdays, as Peter Foster's marvellous shot of local Blues and Rock covers band The Corduroy Kings shows, and an Open Mic session on Fridays.

Congratulations to **Laurence, Catherine, Ivy, and Sue** - what a great team!



What's On?

at The Swan Theatre and Huntingdon Hall

7th February - £22

9th February - £24.50

9th February - £19.50

Vamos Theatre presents A Brave Face 14th February - £15

Cara Dillon 15th February - £22

The Songs of Leonard Cohen 22nd February - £16

Worcester live

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



All quiet for **Clik Clik** but look out for some quirk appearing in the spring! Here's a look back to **Gin Lane** at the **Worcester Victorian Fayre** in December.

Andy Burton



Festival. A loyal and appreciative audience that widens each year, values and engages with the opportunity to sit for 17 days at the very cutting edge of cinema.

Festival Director **Naomi Vera-Sanso**, *"Our audience loves being part of a festival that is curated with cinema lovers rather than industry at its heart. Rural Borderlines may be, but it is in no sense parochial. The people who come to the Festival relish the stimulus of viewing the world from different perspectives through the medium of film."*

1st – 17th March www.borderlinesfilmfestival.org

Worcester alternative artist market

Sat 2nd Feb sees another event for the **Alternative Arts Market**, situated in **Heroes Bar**, on Friar St. This is a great opportunity to purchase some truly individual artwork from local talents, this month featuring **Becky Lyes**, **Miss Hilton Ink**, **Stuart Hermolle** and more....

From 3pm-7pm. Free entry.
www.facebook.com/WAAM2018/



by Becky Lyes

WAW Call Out For Visual Artists

Worcester Arts Workshop is hosting a visual arts exhibition to celebrate **LGBTQ History Month** in February 2019. The exhibition will take place in the new gallery space **'The Third Space'** and the organisation is putting the shout out for applications from LGBTQ artists. The aim of LGBTQ History month is to promote equality and diversity and Worcester Arts Workshop hopes to do so by exhibiting work that celebrates the lives, history, experiences and culture of the LGBTQ community.

On 8th March it is **International Women's Day** and throughout that month they will host an exhibition in **'The Third Space'** to celebrate. They are looking for female artists or artists whose work is themed on the subject of women to mark the occasion.

Director of Transformation at Worcester Arts Workshop, **Hannah Phillips**, said; *"equality, diversity and inclusion are core values for us so these exhibition opportunities give a platform to often unheard voices."*

Any artists interested in applying for either exhibition, please contact visualarts@worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk. For further information please visit www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk

17th Borderlines Film Festival

Early this spring **Borderlines Film Festival** returns to bring the best, most thought-provoking films from across the world to this intensely rural part of the country. From 1st - 17th March the Festival will present more than 80 separate films and events in the counties of Herefordshire and Shropshire, extending to Malvern in Worcestershire and across the Welsh Border, at Hay, Presteigne and Knighton in Powys.

Screenings – more than 250 in number – will take place in multiple venues, ranging in size and location from a large, purpose-built arts centre and pop-ups in Hereford City, to theatres, community cinemas and assembly rooms in market towns, as well as village and church halls in much smaller rural communities.

Earlier in 2018, **Borderlines** achieved record attendances of 20,248 despite heavy snowfall over the middle weekend of the



by Jack Shepherd

Boost for City Arches

Exciting news that Worcester has received a 3 million pound pot of money to develop the arches from Foregate St to the Hive into a new buzzing cultural and creative area for the city. See page 9.

Dancefest is springing into February

Have you checked out **Dancefest's** classes this term? There's still time to join if you'd like to get involved.

Whether you're looking to get fit, have fun or improve your dance skills, they have weekly classes for all ages, as well as regular workshops by visiting dance artists, and the chance to join their companies and take part in performances.

There's **Parents and Wobblers**, dance clubs for children, youth dance companies, **Ballet and Contemporary Technique** - for all ages from 18 months up.



And their **Chance to Dance** classes for people aged 55+ are popping up all over the place - Malvern, Hereford, Rock, Droitwich, Areley Kings, Worcester, Bishampton, Bromsgrove and Eckington!

They're also getting ready for some spring performances – coming up soon are their **Circuit Youth** dance performances on 20 March at **Hereford College of Arts** and 27 March at **Spires Theatre**, Worcester, and they're looking forward to taking part in the **Celebrating Age** event at **Malvern Theatres** on 2 April.

Find out more about how you can get involved with **Dancefest** at dancefest.co.uk or give them a ring on 01905 611199 – new dancers are always welcome!

The Bridge

You may have heard about the **Bridge** project over the last few months and know that Worcester is one of three cities selected to take part in this innovative and imaginative arts, engineering and social change project in 2020. Bridge is an outdoor arts project taking place in three cities; Coventry, Worcester and Grantham in 2019 and 2020 and explores the themes of *'bridging divides and connecting across difference'*.

Imagineer would now like to share their ambitious vision for Worcester with the arts and cultural sectors with a meeting on 5th February from 2.00 – 4.00pm at **The Guildhall**, Worcester. There will be an opportunity to hear more about the project as well as discuss how you and your creative groups can get involved and shape the direction of the project between now and 2020.

Please RSVP to m.cockcroft@severnarts.org.uk by 25th January. imagineer-productions.co.uk

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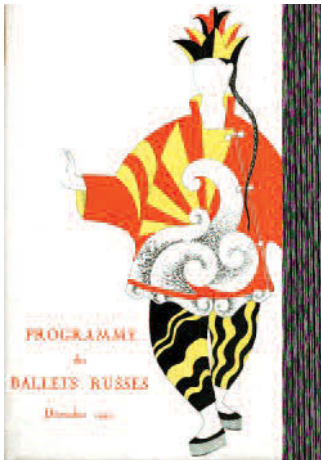
©Annie Attridge, The Divine and the Mortal. Photo: Matthew Booth

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND LOTTERY FUNDED WORCESTER CATHEDRAL #GlobalDayofClay

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

Matisse comes to Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum



Joining previously unseen costumes and artwork from **Diaghilev's Ballets Russes**, some of Matisse's famous cut outs will be shown at the **Worcester City Museum** this month. Stories from the Diaghilev's Ballets Russes told through costumes, programmes and objects will be shown together for the first time in the UK alongside a **Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition Matisse: Drawing with Scissors** from 2 Feb until 27 April.

Diaghilev's Ballets Russes features a unique collection of costume and ephemera telling the stories of the Ballets Russes, the most spectacular and scandalous ballet company of the early 1900s. Matisse was one of many artists commissioned to create costumes and scenery for the company, the exhibition also includes work by other great artists of the period including Dame Laura Knight.

Henri Matisse was one of the 20th century's most influential artists. His vibrant works are celebrated for their extraordinary richness and luminosity of colour and his spectacular paper cut-outs were his final triumph. This exhibition features 35 lithographic reproductions of the famous cut-outs that he produced in the last years of his life. It includes iconic images such as *The Snail* and the *Blue Nudes*.



Philippa Tinsley, Curator Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum said: "We are very excited to bring these two fabulous exhibitions to Worcester. We are very proud to be the first venue in the UK to show the Ballets Russes collection, it is an extraordinary collection of objects illustrating just how spectacular the Ballets Russes was in the early 1900s. Matisse: Drawing with Scissors will be a visual delight for all visitors; spring will be an exciting time to visit Worcester Art Gallery & Museum."

Hear more about Diaghilev's Ballet Russes from the exhibition's curator on Tuesday 12th March, 1pm, £3 per person. Tickets can be booked in advance - call 01905 25371.

2nd Feb - 27th April. Both exhibitions are free. For more info: www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

Art of the Great War

from 2 February until 1 March 2019

Paintings from **World War One** go on show at **The Guildhall**

Part of the **Worcestershire World War One Hundred** programme, **Art of the Great War** is a remarkable collection of original artworks gathered by **John Noott** over the last thirty years. The exhibition features paintings, prints and drawings that bring to life varied aspects of the **First World War** from those who served either on the frontline or on the home front.

Born in 1932, John Noott's father had served in the **Royal Army Medical Corps** in the Great War, the second World War arrived when John was just seven years old. John has always been interested in this period in history and, as an art dealer, has been able to collect works of art from the time from both well-known and amateur artists.

John Noott, exhibition curator said: "These works show the whole scope of experiences during the Great War from the devastation on the battlefield to incredibly moving depictions of the soldiers' experiences. I hope people enjoy the exhibition and that they educate and contribute to our understanding of the impact of World War One."



Adrian Gregson, Worcester's World War One Hundred Project Manager said: "I am delighted to be working with John to bring the Art of the Great War to The Guildhall in Worcester. The work on show presents an incredible snapshot of the experiences of those on the front line and in doing so is incredibly moving. Whilst Armistice has passed this isn't the end of the story and the Worcester's World War One Hundred programme is keen to continue to share stories from the First World War and exhibitions like this are a great way of doing that."

For more about info on Worcs World War One Hundred programme or events throughout Armistice: ww1worcestershire.co.uk

Government awards £3m to transform Worcester's railway arches

Worcester's railway arches are set to be transformed into a major new cultural destination for the city, providing a hub for business and creative skills development. The funding will be used to create a new key gateway for the city, following the line of the Victorian arches from **Foregate Street** railway station to **The Hive** and the River Severn.

Eight of the arches will be refurbished, with several becoming affordable work and creative spaces, transforming the area into a modern, 21st Century workplace for creative industries, and a cultural destination for tourists and local communities.

The project will develop a leadership and entrepreneurial skills programme encouraging graduates and others to seek pathways into employment and business start-up, with opportunities for new jobs and training being created.

A festivals hub will be established in the arches, delivering cultural events across Worcester. This hub will support festival organisers, encouraging skills development and volunteer opportunities in the creative industries. The arches will also host an information point for tourists visiting the city, and continue to be a thriving vibrant home for independent retail and food offers.

Rupert Davison, joint director and proprietor of the Burger Shop in the arches, said: *"This exciting news will not only benefit our business, it will be the start of the creation of a new fantastic independent quarter for Worcester that will become a really great destination in the city."*

The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, **Jeremy Wright MP**, awarded £3m in funding to this ambitious £4.5m project, from the **Cultural Development Fund**. This is a new **DCMS / Arts Council England** fund that focuses on developing the economic impact of creative industries, arts and heritage.



The project will include improvements to the environment of the arches area, including new lighting and surfacing of the walkway, as well as key infrastructure.

The funding bid was successfully prepared by **Worcester Cultural Partnership**, which will match it with a further £1.5m. The Partnership is led by **Worcester City Council** and comprises **The University of Worcester, Severn Arts, Network Rail, Worcestershire Arts Partnership, Worcestershire County Council** and local businesses including **Burger Shop / A Rule of Tum, Method Roastery** and **The Hive**.

Laura Worsfold, Chief Executive of Severn Arts, said: *"We are delighted that Worcester has been awarded this funding in recognition of our aspiration and ambition to become a centre for excellence in creative skills and to deliver a high quality, innovative festivals programme that encourages new and existing audiences to participate in the arts. This will have a significant impact on transforming this part of the city into a vibrant new artistic quarter for everyone."*

Follow news about the Arches project at #WorcArches.

Worcester Music Festival open band Applications For 2019 Extravaganza

Worcester Music Festival organisers are inviting artists to apply to perform at 2019's event. The festival, set to take place between 13th - 15th of September, will be a charity event with all proceeds being donated to a cause that supports the Worcestershire community.

Artists from every genre are invited to apply to play the festival through an online application form that can be accessed via the festival's website. Performers will be asked to donate their time to help bring the city's music scene together, all in aid of a great cause.

Local promoters will be given charge of a night in one of the 25 venues located in the city centre, handpicking a line-up from the artists applying. The authentic crafting of the bill has always proven a success, the incredible high quality of the musicians taking the stage drawing large crowds of both music fans and passers-by.

In recent years, organisers have expanded the line-up to include comedy spoken word and a host of workshops aimed at the whole family. The festival hosts around 250 performances and attracts thousands of visitors from across the country.

Festival director, **Anthony Robbins** said: *"We love listening to the vast array of artists who apply and we always come away feeling incredibly positive about the amazing quality of the acts in*



Image: Violet by Gordon Rogers taken at last years festival at Munros Cellar Bar

our local music scene and beyond. We would encourage artists to put themselves forward for consideration."

To date, the festival has supported 17 charities, raising almost £55,000. Last year, the festival donated £5,307.15 to the Worcestershire Association of Carers, enabling the charity to support carers across the county through a number of initiatives.

To apply to perform at the festival, visit: www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk/artistsapply

To keep up to date with the latest from Worcester Music Festival, visit www.worcestermusicfestival.co.uk or follow them on social media @worcsmusicfest

Suz Winspear

February at last, and it feels as though we are in a world of turmoil – of political and social meltdown and uncertainty for the future. As I'm writing this, the news reports are full of parliamentary chaos, and I doubt things will be any better by the time you read it. At the moment it feels as though the only thing that we can trust and rely upon is the natural world. Despite everything, the days are getting longer and the leaves of the first spring bulbs are showing. The snowdrops and crocuses are coming through already, soon there will be blossom and new green leaves on the trees, birds will build their nests and the world will come back to life. All these dismal things that are going on in the human world will end eventually, and springtime really IS on its way.

Suz Winspear



And here are some spoken word events for February!

Thursday 7th February - Word Heroes - Heroes Bar, Worcester
Former Birmingham Poet Laureate - 'Spoz' jopins local celebrity authors and spoken word heroes in aid of West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre for an evening of up beat high jinx.

Thursday 14th February – SpeakEasy at Waylands Yard Yes, it's Valentine's Day! Love it or loathe it, whether you adore the red roses and chocolates or see it all as just another over-commercialised spend-fest, you're bound to hear something to suit your mood amidst the eclectic poetry from a wide range of local poets. Our featured performer is Wesley Rolston, who has given us short sets at a couple of recent SpeakEasies, and now we want to hear more! Open Mic slots available on a first-come, first-served basis. They're popular, so get there early. Oh yes, and there will be our legendary raffle (involves a goth poet and an orange bucket . . .) £3 admission, 7.30pm

Thursday 21st February – Dear Listener at Boston Tea Party, Angel Place. This is an early-evening event of eclectic poetry and spoken word, from both new and established voices. This month's headliner is James Chatfield, plus a special guest! Who is this special guest? Come to Dear Listener and find out! £3 admission. 6.30 – 8.30pm.

Wednesday 27th February - 42 at Drummonds Bar - Life, the Universe and Everything – prose and poetry – Gothic horror, science fiction, fantasy, storytelling, comedy, reportage, genre fiction, and a few categories that haven't yet been given a name. You never know what you'll hear at 42 . . . Free entry. 7.30pm.

If you feel like travelling further afield, here is an event you might like to try:-

Monday 11th February - Licensed to Rhyme – Café Morso, Barnt Green, nr Birmingham, B45 8NE This is a monthly spoken word night organised by former Worcestershire Poet Laureate Maggie Doyle. The February headliner is poet, comedian and slam champion Scott Tyrrell, who has written for TV, radio and performed for Radio 4, Radio 3's the Verb, Sky Atlantic, ITV, BBC4 and BBC Arts. His new poetry collection Honest has received great reviews. You may have noticed his recent work, creating portraits of UK poets to create a definitive map of spoken word across the island. Open-mic slots available via maggiedoylepoet@gmail.com Some may be available on the night.

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

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Malvern Storytellers

Oral storytelling is one of the most ancient art forms, and continues to this day as a vibrant part of culture throughout the world. Storytelling is an ancient craft; its power is timeless because good stories will always captivate audiences, whatever the medium. Storytelling predates writing. The earliest forms of storytelling were usually oral combined with gestures and expressions. Modern storytelling has a broad purview. In addition to its traditional forms (fairytales, folktales, mythology, legends, fables etc.), it has extended itself to representing history, personal narrative, political commentary and evolving cultural norms. In Europe, much of the storytelling comes from the olden times when people would gather around in the dark nights and tell stories to each other. Indeed, many stories have been collected from the old bardic traditions.



Malvern Storytellers club. They meet every first Tuesday of the month at **The Great Malvern Hotel** in Great Malvern at 8pm. Most meetings we listen to stories told by each other. There is no obligation to tell a story, some come to tell, and some people merely come to listen. Sometimes we organise special events: several times a year we have professional storytellers come to us for an evening.

The club is in the process of organising new events for the coming year. The club has had stories told by people from many parts of the UK and even a group of storytellers from Japan.

The stories we tell come from many traditions including home-grown English, Celtic Scandinavian and the rest of the world. Whilst most of the stories are centuries-old, some are modern and some even written by the storytellers. But they are all told by the storyteller themselves, who put their take on the story. In the modern idiom, the stories are typically short (10 mins or less), but a well-trained storyteller can hold audiences captivated for longer.

Malvern Storytellers is only £2 to attend and free on your first visit. We look forward to meeting you. For more details visit the web site www.malvernstorytellers.co.uk or phone Tim Willcocks on 01684 567 721 or Peggy on 01905 831032.



Modern storytelling can occur in many scenarios; most people will have experienced being told a story as a child, or telling stories to one's children. Storytelling is much more than this however. Groups of people get together to hear other people's stories and to tell them to one another. They meet in pubs, clubs and people's homes. One place you can go to hear storytellers is the



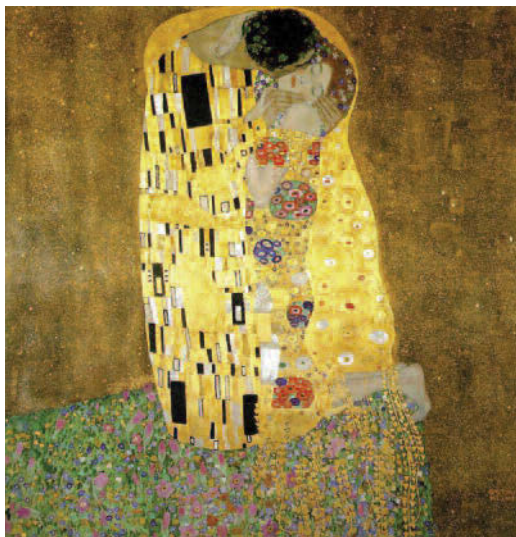
worcester arts workshop

Get the Look of Love with a romantic evening of Painting at Worcester Arts Workshop

For anyone who has a love of art or an interest in the symbolist artist **Gustav Klimt**, **Worcester Arts Workshop** are offering a one-of-a-kind evening of painting on Tuesday 12 February from 7.30pm.

'The Kiss' Pop Up Painting Style Event, presented by Worcester Arts Workshop, is an opportunity for participants to create their own works of art, based on or inspired by Klimt's masterpiece *The Kiss*.

Widely thought of as one of the world's most romantic images, *The Kiss* depicts an embracing couple, created in opulent gold leaf. As an artist whose work explored the themes of intimacy and sexuality, in the early 20th century, Klimt's paintings were often seen as scandalous.



Taking place, just before Valentine's Day on Tuesday 12 February, 'The Kiss' Pop Up Painting Style Event provides a wonderful opportunity to create a beautiful personalised gift for a loved one. Or alternatively, picture yourself painting alongside your Valentine's beau - perhaps the most romantic Valentine's date ever!

The 2.5 hour workshop will take place in the relaxed surroundings of The Third Space cafe/bar at Worcester Arts Workshop. Participants will be offered guidance from a qualified and practicing artist, but are encouraged to freely explore their own ideas.

Tickets for 'The Kiss' Pop Up Painting Style Event are £25 per person and this includes all materials and tuition. Throughout the evening there will be a themed music playlist to accompany and enhance the experience, along with a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles.

Places are limited, no previous painting experience is necessary, this workshop is open to all abilities. To book a space please visit www.worcesterartsworkshop.org.uk.

For further information or images please contact Eleanor Miles: EMilesPR@gmail.com 07746901126

Sweetart Murals | Graham Colledge

Graham is a Midland based mural artist who specialises in graffiti and hand-painted mural art. Currently based in Worcester, Graham travels throughout the UK creating hand-painted, bespoke designs for interior and exterior murals for homes, schools and businesses.

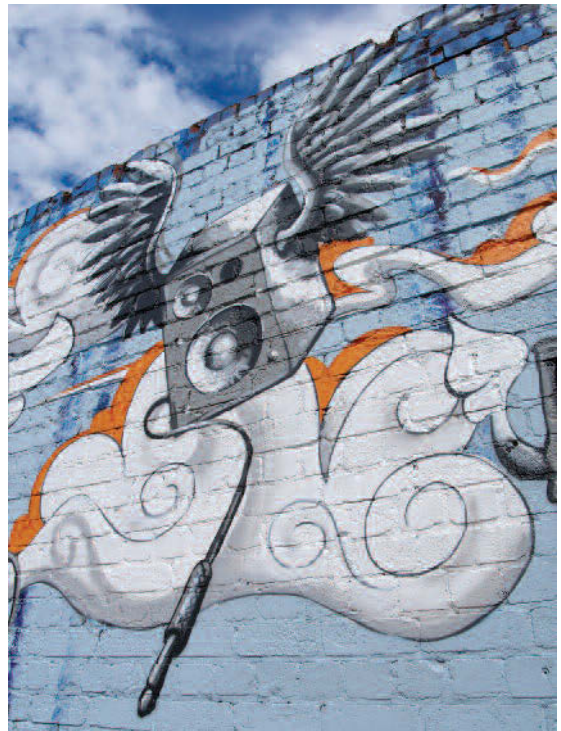
He first took his inspiration from New York graffiti artists and the flourishing American hip hop scene back in the 1980's and began creating his own graffiti; immersing himself in the culture from the beginning through to street art and today's vibrant scene. In 2008, he established **Sweetart Murals** and began painting for local businesses and friends to create a portfolio of work. This quickly led to work nationwide ranging from private nurseries to school murals and artwork for interior designers and businesses such as Debenhams and The Fort Shopping Park.



Although much of his current artwork is based inside you can see some of his exterior work in Birmingham; the beer garden of **The Lord Clifton** in Hockley and "Our Musical Roots" mural at St Martin's Youth and Community Centre in Highgate. Perhaps a natural progression from graffiti has been a growing interest in traditional signwriting, some of which can be found on the side of the **The Plough** in Worcester and the **Clik Clik 'Gin Lane'** sign hanging at the end of the alley during the **Worcester Victorian Fair**. Graham also created the entry sign for the **Cabinet of Lost Secrets**, a music and performance venue at **Nozstock The Hidden Valley** in Herefordshire.



For interior work he prefers to use emulsions, spray paint for exterior work, any non-artist specific materials and tools such as good quality decorator's brushes and rollers. He says "I feel this helps me to stay free and loose in my painting to create work on a large scale, this also allows me to paint quicker and not focus on the final details until towards the end".



Last year he worked on a variety of different commissions including creating a bat cave in a child's bedroom with various superheroes and villains, a Harry Potter Hogwarts scene in a school, a woodland, a cloud ceiling with flying birds, a bathroom with beautiful magnolia trees and a UV underwater scene for a care home. At the moment he is working on a commission for a mural in London based around London landmarks.

Graham is now looking to bring some large scale artwork to Worcester. If you want to see more of his work or have a mural you would like painting, you can check out the **Sweetart Murals** website.

Contact Graham on 07795071296 hello@sweetartmurals.co.uk
sweetartmurals.co.uk

Bromsgrove Festival Of Light

On 9th December, Bromsgrove Town Centre once again played host to a magical lantern parade, **The Festival of Light 2018**.

Created in partnership with **Artrix**, **NWedR** and **Bromsgrove District Council** *The Festival of Light* attracted hundreds of people to Bromsgrove's High Street to participate in a beautiful, illuminated celebration, alongside carnival creators Shademakers, performers and members of the community with their lanterns handmade at workshops in the build up to the event



The parade began as the sun set with families and community groups turning out with beautiful paper lanterns. They set about through the town centre in a celebration of togetherness, light and the Winter season, all to the sounds of samba band **Someone At The Door**. The cold December weather didn't put off the crowds and it is estimated that more than 2000 people enjoyed this festive event.

Artrix Associate **Artist Kristoffer Huball** was the creative force behind *The Festival of Light* and worked to deliver lantern making workshops with schools, community groups, families and individuals prior to the event. It's estimated that approximately 800 lanterns were created in workshops leading up to the festival.

"It's wonderful that the enthusiasm for Bromsgrove's Festival of Light is growing year-on-year. The creativity of the people of Bromsgrove shines through with the fantastic lanterns they have



made and proudly displayed and the Shademakers and our carnival performers brought such vibrancy and energy to the event."

The finale of this year's *Festival of Light* saw Birmingham-based Balkan gypsy band **The Destroyers** continue the party with their lively set.



Bromsgrove Centres Manager **Cheryl Welsh**, who part-funded the parade, said; *"I'm thrilled that this year's Festival of Light has continued to bring such joy and creativity to Bromsgrove's Community. The town centre was alive with the excitement of everyone who attended. What an exciting outdoor performance for us all to get involved in!"*

Quentin Crisp | Naked Hope

Mark Farrelly's hit solo show comes to **Artrix** as part of a major UK tour on 13th Feb. *Quentin Crisp: Naked Hope*, is a much-acclaimed solo play exploring the life of an icon, the legendary Quentin Crisp at two distinct phases of his extraordinary life. Firstly in the late 1960s in his filthy Chelsea flat - *"Don't lose your nerve: after the first four years the dirt won't get any worse"*. Here Quentin surveys a lifetime of degradation and rejection. Repeatedly beaten for being flamboyantly gay as early as the 30s, but also ostracised simply for daring to live life on his own terms.

The second part of the play transitions the audience to New York in the 1990s. Here a much older Quentin, finally embraced by society, regales the audience with his sharply-observed, hard-earned philosophy on how to have a lifestyle: *"Life will be more difficult if you try to become yourself. But avoiding this difficulty renders life meaningless. So discover who you are. And be it. Like mad!"*.

Naked Hope is a glorious, truthful and uplifting celebration of a genuinely unique human being, and of the urgent necessity to be yourself. It debuted at the Off-West End St. James Theatre, and has toured the UK ever since.



It is directed by **Linda Marlowe**, much acclaimed for her own solo work including *Berkoff's Women*. **Mark Farrelly's** West End credits include *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* opposite Matthew Kelly. He is also the author / performer of a second successful solo play, *The Silence of Snow: The Life of Patrick Hamilton*.

Artrix, Bromsgrove. 13th February. 8pm. Tickets £14 each or £12 for concessions. are Ages 12+. For info: www.artrix.co.uk or call Box Office on 01527 577330.

Dylan Moran Cheltenham Town Hall | 4th Dec

A lone figure walks out on to the stage cradling an innocent teapot and carefully places the quintessentially English ceramic icon on the table sat centre stage. An audience member imparts a spontaneous *"ahhhhhhh, how cute"*, the whole act is a sobering statement that reveals more than we realise...

Dylan Moran's style of comedic delivery is personal and well honed. The bemused, befuddled and baffled approach wins over the audience, as he opens his mouth to articulate thoughts and ideas that he seemingly thought of seconds before: of course this spontaneity is well rehearsed. His audience is with Moran from the start of his darkly nonsensical (*"...everyone, in Ireland, over the age of 3 and a half were considered depressive!"*) and glaringly obvious monologues; as he repeatedly sweeps his fringe back over his forehead and away from his eyes: so nonplussed, he can focus on his observations. **Dylan Moran** as we know is a very funny comedian. What's more, the intelligent use of images and the inventive use of language is a genuine victory of content over style.

Without checking to see if the teapot was still warm, our host pours a small amount into his cup and continues with smaller and smaller sips...

As ever with a metaphoric black dog on his shoulder, Moran is capable of alerting us to the risible nature of world politics...on Mike Pence, *"he has a smile from the back of the freezer"*; he is also more than equipped to offer sideways glances at the minutiae of *"our dreary and banal lives."* The staccato exploration of breakfast as the *"most violent of all meals,"* alerting us to the fact that, *"cereal can only be eaten as if you have just been released from captivity,"* saw rows of collective shoulders shaking in acknowledgement.



I need to acknowledge that the biggest laugh gleaned on the night was aimed at everyone in the room – including Moran. To prove his views on positive body-image, he focused on the most basic of acts: showering. He compared the *"beautiful water-drenched bodies in the adverts that clean their skin with natural ingredients"* - whereas in reality - *"we catch sight of ourselves in the mirror, looking like a pig, caught in a typhoon, trapped in a phone box, as we clean ourselves with chemical jizz."* Showering this morning, I had a knowing smile on my face but not for the reasons you think. Accordingly, it would be easy to surmise that Moran is both readily embracing reality and running from the very idea...

Pouring the tea in to his cherished cup it looked incredibly weak and must have been cold after an hour or more...

A television producer once said to the lugubrious Les Dawson, *"you know, you don't always have to perform drunk on stage,"* to which Dawson replied instantly, *"What and go out and face them alone?"* **Dylan Moran** was never alone performing on the night, the audience was with him until the end, as he heroically chased away his tigers...

Nicholas David Burford

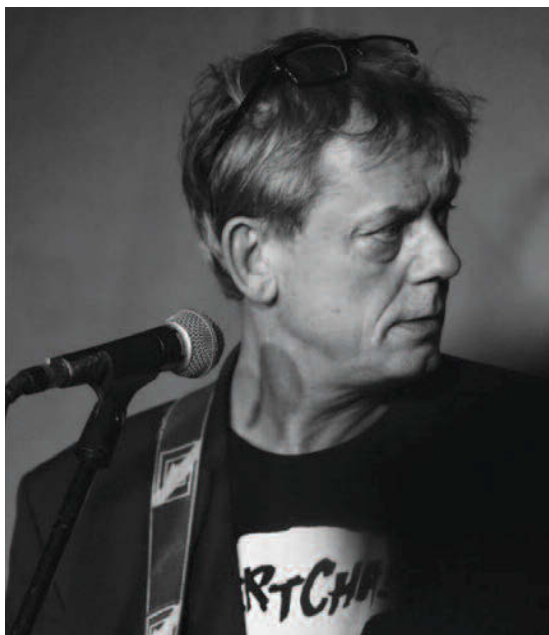
Graham Fellows 'Completely Out of Character' Artrix, Bromsgrove | 30th Nov

Firstly, I have to commend this fabulous venue. **Artrix** in Bromsgrove is a fantastically well appointed performance space with free parking and excellent staff. Most performances are in the main auditorium but for this 'an evening with' style show, it was in the smaller studio space upstairs and although it still held a hundred people, it was sold out.

Many may not have heard of **Graham Fellows** but will know many of his characters such as **John Shuttleworth** and, in the late 70's, **Jilted John**. The show was superb. A humorous but real insight into his life from his youth in Sheffield and through the many ups and downs of his personal and professional life punctuated with his songs that he played on guitar and mellotron. I never thought I'd ever get to see 'Jilted John' (*Gordon is a Moron*) performed live but yes, youth revisited!

As expected, the delivery of his stories as with the songs was humorous but with a hint of pathos and a real northern honesty that is so reminiscent of early Smiths and Morrissey lyrics. His true life experiences have led to many of the song lyrics that he (and John Shuttleworth) still perform today such as *'Mark Rylance was my Lodger'* and *'I Can't Go Back to Savoury Now'*.

Pablo Raybold



'**Graham Fellows – Completely Out of Character**' will return to touring in January and into February and I, for one, truly recommend catching one of the dates.

Bohemian Rhapsody

No 8 Pershore | 2nd Jan

The film biopic of Freddy Mercury and Queen was never going to be a low key affair; consequently, the film is monumentally epic and the key is our love affair with Mercury and his musical achievements in life. The cinema was that full extra seats had to be drafted in front of house. Impressive. There is one word and one word only to capture the treatment of the central character in this film – sympathetic – and ladies and gentlemen what a character!

Mercury's quicksilver character was captured by Rami Malek's acting ability and strikingly similar appearance. Malek portrayed with seeming effortless ease, the goofy and callow innocent that contrasted with the toxic-tongued and contrived visionary that was the lead singer and emotional conduit of the band. His latent homosexuality, death by AIDS and his dalliance with drugs were explored with sympathetic and sensitive brushstrokes but it is his determination to succeed and entertain that is the stand out feature of a life blighted by over-exposure and acute loneliness. To paraphrase Elvis Aron Presley who stated on numerous occasions: "How can I be sat in a room surrounded by everyone I know and still feel alone?" Mercury was genuinely troubled, starting with a troubled relationship with his father, coupled with a fractious relationship with his first real girlfriend and the



subsequent in-fighting with his band. Come on, it's not Astrophysics you only have to listen and study those lyrics a little closer...

I was not alone in my emotional response to the epic opening and closing scenes, that saw a cocktail stick-thin man climbing the stairs to a stage dressed in regulation 80s straight denim jeans and studded belt & armband, accompanied by an era defining 'tache' for that emotional performance. Mercury will be remembered for his showmanship, voice, lyrics and Live Aid performance and his memory will never be alone as it will always be accompanied by a smile.

I smiled to myself, as the end of the film was greeted by spontaneous applause from a full house that had come to celebrate a monumental life.

Theoc Upsetter

Ben Cipolla, Mischa Jardine and the Nouvelle House Band

Beaudesert Park School, Minchinhampton | Fri 11th Jan

It's been an impressive and non-stop couple of years for young Cheltenham jazzman, **Ben Cipolla**, highlighted by the release of his first full album with his big band, "*Jungle Kingdom*" and then an appearance at **The Jazz Prom** at the Royal Albert Hall, in the company of **Clare Teal**.

It won't surprise you to hear that he's of Italian heritage, specifically Sicily, and for the first part of tonight's gig he plays solo, debuting material from his as yet unfinished new album "*Sicilia*", a suite of nine tracks drawing inspiration from the countryside and people of the island, one song for each of its nine provinces.



This must have been the fifth or sixth time I've seen Ben play and this outstripped any other performance I've seen from him. The voice, always smooth, has now become even more supple, the range seems extended and he's added several layers of power. His guitar playing, often overlooked when he's fronting his big band was top class tonight - fluid acoustic jazz, with nimble finger work and impressive passing chords.

The music has a lightness of touch that runs through the entire suite, whatever the subject, and there are many different inspirational sources - the refugee situation in parts of the island in "*Lavender*" and a riff inspired by a construction worker's early morning whistling in "*The Golden Hour*" are typical of its diversity. He's joined for one track by cellist/vocalist **Mischa Jardine**, whose mellow bow work and complementary voice adds much depth.

After a very civilised glass of wine in this wonderful private venue, whose Director of Music, **Becky Saunders** was Ben's music teacher, the **Nouvelle House Band** joins him onstage and the tempo picks up very nicely indeed, as his back catalogue is thoroughly reworked for the new band structure - the glorious 'Saskia', bursting with summer sunshine, the vigorous big-band sound of '*Jungle Kingdom*', the light fizz of '*Copper Cappuccino*' (apparently written following a singularly unappreciated busking session in Swindon...) and the mellow swing of '*Felicity Fandango*'. There's new material here, too with a song about the frailties of old age and its accompanying loss of memory, being outstanding, both moving and elegant.

We get a touch of Gershwin as **Mischa Jardine** returns to the stage, and she remains for the final track and possibly the highlight of the set as we return to the "*Sicilia*" album for '*Enna*', inspired by the only landlocked province of the island. It is absolutely beautiful, with Jardine's cello swelling the sound from the band, who have provided excellent and deft support throughout.

A simply wonderful evening.

Geoffrey Head



“Female Voices” Poppy Waterman-Smith Chloe Mogg and Hannah Law Tower of Song, King’s Norton | Sunday 6th January

There’s a wonderful series of presentations developing in this very compact venue on the outskirts of Birmingham.

Curated by Stourport singer and multi-instrumentalist, **Chloe Mogg** the series aims to showcase the talents of a wide variety of women singer/songwriters, and after seeing a couple of these now, it’s most definitely succeeding.

Hannah Law from The Wyre Forest is first up tonight, and I have a fleeting frisson of worry that the very small and unamplified ukulele she’s clutching isn’t going to be heard. However, with her excellent technique and the slimline, but crystal-clear sound system here, a perfect balance of instrument and voice is achieved right from outset. And it’s a powerful and very rich voice, vigorously delivering a wide range of thoughtful and articulate self-penned songs. There’s a surprise at the end of the set, though, as the instruments are discarded and she delivers the stunning, multiply looped acappella closer, *‘Streetlight’* which puts the icing on top of a very fine set.

There’s an EP in the works, and if this display is any indication of what’s to come, it’s going to be a cracker. Great start.

Now, you’ve heard me talk before about the undoubted talents of **Chloe Mogg**, and she quickly proves that she’s not just on the bill because she put it together - this is simply an artist who delivers every time you see her, and it’s in the nature of her music that she doesn’t deliver the same things time after time. This is no paint-by-numbers performer.

It would be lazy, not to mention flat-out rude to call her music ‘quirky’, rather it’s a measured and brilliantly executed exercise in irreverence - her lyrics, sometimes angry, sometimes wistful are rich with metaphor, full of irony and wit and always delivered with immense panache.

16 SLAP FEB

Under normal circumstances, the wry and semi-autobiographical *‘Parrot’* - a reference in part to her startling multi-coloured hair would be the highlight of the set for me but tonight, it’s eclipsed by the closer *‘The Only One’* - a brand new song featuring a glorious string-bending riff and using a crunching mid-section to fully display her excellent grasp of rhythm and pacing (her main instrument is bass) - it’s an amazing finish.

Go and see this woman play - it’s a real experience.

Instant fame can be a double-edged sword but **Poppy Waterman-Smith (Poppy WS)** hasn’t let a chance encounter and duet with international singer/songwriter Seal, while busking in Manchester (now pushing 4 million views on YouTube) followed by a live onstage appearance with the same artist, make her lose focus.

Now based in Worcester, she gave us a tremendous display of her many talents in her headlining set.

The sheer number of musical influences she incorporates leaves you bewildered and fascinated - from the sumptuous neo-classical opener, *‘Mercury’*, delivered on piano through to the elegant trip-hop of *‘Shotgun’*, via the startling reggae/jazz amalgam of *‘Someone Else’* - you simply can’t predict what’s coming next

Not only can’t you predict what style of music you’ll be hearing next but predicting what instrument comes next exercises your imagination as well. She plays electric guitar, piano, ukulele, melodica and mouth organ - individually and memorably, in various combinations with each other - and she also has this very large loop station...

The set has been based around her truly imaginative EP, *‘Rep.’* and much the same as on this excellent disc, the whole thing comes gloriously together live on the night’s final track *‘Bella’* - it’s long and complex and joyous and completely jaw-dropping - the full range of instruments and her wonderful voice being expertly channelled through a series of loops to produce a musical tour de force in which the spirits of Scott Joplin, Debussy and Bob Marley collide and explode.

A fitting end to this most marvellous night of music.

Geoffrey Head



Elephant Peel

Elephant Peel are intriguing. A mish-mash of eloquent influences from days gone by with a swaggering confidence that forces you to take notice. With a new EP and a release party on the 22nd February at **Paradiddles** lined up, I caught up with them to find out what makes them tick. **Elephant Peel** are: **Joe Thomlinson** – vocals and harmonica, **Crawford Randall** - Rhythm guitar and backing vocals, **Randall Crawford** - Lead guitar, **(Comfy) Sean Gandy** – bass and **Guy Bradnock** – Drums.

So firstly, why Elephant Peel? What's in your name?

Well I (Joe) wanted to be called The Moby Dickheads and was quickly shot down! Then we were exchanging messages and the band name came up, I was listening to a Syd Barrett Peel session at the time, the track Effervescent Elephant, the two words just stuck. When we came to release the first EP, we did a pastiche of the Velvet Underground and Nico art with an Elephant instead of a banana and it seemed perfect. I love The Brian Jonestown Massacre and the way they play around with classic LP titles and musicians' names, we've kind of continued the trend with the Stay At Home Yoko artwork. Both done by the brilliant Kristin Raidloo.

This is your last release before you record your LP in the spring. How does this EP differ from your first?

I don't think it differs drastically. We laid down a template for how we want to sound on record the first time round and figured out how we approach recording so the second one was easier. We recorded this one at JT Soar in Nottingham with Phil Booth (aka DR Phil) and basically slept in the studio for a weekend. We had an absolute blast and Phil was a pleasure to record with. I think you can hear how much fun we're having..

We played a gig at the studio on the Saturday night. You'd have to ask Phil how that went because we were about 80 red stripes deep by the time we played! We had to do the vocals the following morning after about three hours sleep!

Your sound harks back to times gone by. Who are your musical influences? How did you find your niche?

Decades of listening to Syd Barrett, The Kinks, The Beatles and The Velvet Underground! Those are probably the big influences but then there's The Buzzcocks, Jennifer Gentle, Bob Dylan, The Only Ones and The Small Faces the list is pretty much endless! We just really love songs. 50% of our rehearsals consist of us playing each other songs, we pretty much write the songs we want to hear.

It feels like some of the song content is based on personal experience? I was particularly intrigued by the track "Beecher Street" is this a real place?

Lyrics are such a huge thing for me. I always strive to have meaningful subject matter, but I like to use ambiguous phrasing and words with double meanings to throw people off the scent. You want the listener to take their own meaning from a song without spelling anything out.

Beecher Street was actually written by Guy our drummer. He's written probably 50% of the stuff we have for the LP. It's about

being skint, living in squalor, being hopeless and just putting up with it. Something I think is quite relatable for people in the UK right now. It is a real street but it's in Washington DC and is the home of Dischord records. That doesn't have any relevance to the song, it just sounded good!

How do you write the songs within the band? Does one person turn up with a complete song or is it a collaborative effort?

There's no set way. Sometimes one of us will bring a finished track, sometimes it's a nearly finished one and we tidy it up. On Climb the Ocean, Crawford wrote the chords, Randall came up with the melody, I wrote the lyrics and we arranged it as a whole band. With Stay At Home Yoko, in proper Beatles style, I wrote the most of lyrics but we came up with the middle eight as a band. It was Dr Phil who arranged that one and the Sax player from his band Slumb Party played organ on it.

Do you have a favourite track on the EP? Why?

No. They're all ace.

You're headlining Paradiddles on the 22nd February, what's next for Elephant Peel? Any plans for a larger tour?

We want to do a tour of gigs in people's kitchens. Get in touch if you have a kitchen.



Photography: John Welsh

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Stylist Required

Spencer Cater Leaving Lost Vagueness

Described as Lou Reed & They Might Be Giants meet **James Taylor**, West Midlands artist **Spencer Cater** also known as **Spence**, resides in the lovely Cotswolds. Storming his way through various bands in the 90's and noughties, Spence now is a solo performer who also collaborates with other artists. Released in November last year, "**Leaving Lost Vagueness**" was produced by **Michael Clarke** (David Brent, Dan Whitehouse, Clarksville.)

As for the album, it's engaging and eclectic. With tracks such as *First & Last* dealing with a romanticised energy hoping that their relationship will be their first and last, this subject is a strong message throughout the album. *Best Part of My Day* has a Jason Mraz twinkle, whereas tracks such as *Relationship & Ready for Love Now* are just damn warming with Spence's own flavour of love.

A personal favourite of the album has to be *Close Enough to Hurt*, the simplicity of this track is poured through every pore and it does feel close enough to "*Hurt*" ... as in the Johnny Cash cover. The sharp ending is brutally honest of how our emotions take over us and make us hurt even more sometimes. Songs such as *Disease* and *Borrowed Shell* are also strong contenders on this commercial album. Title track, *Leaving Lost Vagueness* (try saying that fast and it sounds like Las Vegas) is a lot different to all the



other song arrangements, this tune is more electronic based. With songs *Love this Christmas* & *I Saw Three Ships* concluding this pop orientated album on a high, it leaves us feeling warm and ready for the most wonderful (expensive) time of the year. Petition for Spence Cater to be Christmas No 1!!! (Maybe next year - Ed)

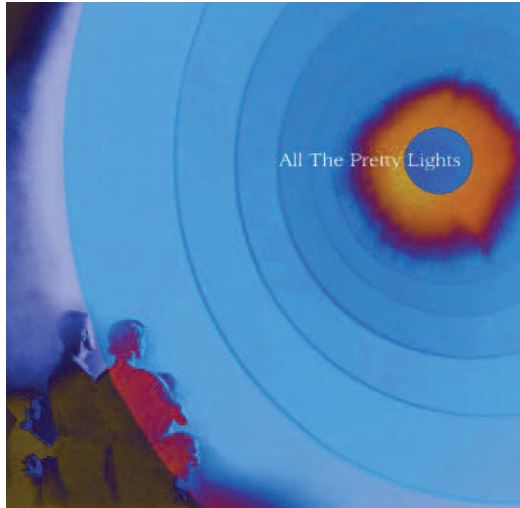
Chloe Mogg

Tyler Massey All the Pretty Lights

Folk-rock singer-songwriter **Tyler Massey's** second EP *All the Pretty Lights* is somewhat of a departure from his previous EP *American Nightmare*. Alongside Tyler's distinctive Americana sound, there is an immediately noticeable increase in guitar effects, often verging on the psychedelic!

The whimsical name of the title track is juxtaposed with an undercurrent of subdued menace in the verses which dramatically explodes in the choruses- amid layered vocal tracks and **Eric Hej's** percussion. The panicked, pleading refrain- "I want you to take me out of my head" seems almost a mission statement for this EP.

The themes of anxiety and alienation - whether political or personal - run through almost every song here. *How to Complete an Emergency Stop* reminds us that "you can't watch the news without your supplier, you'll need something for the pain". In contrast, the music is some of Tyler's most propulsive. The guitars all shimmering arpeggios and staccato stabs, the drums hypnotic, and producer **Alex Knight's** intricate bassline reminiscent of Andy Rourke's work with The Smiths.



I Was Wrong is the most traditionally **Tyler Massey** of the tracks here, built around sparsely fingerpicked acoustic guitar and confessional lyrics, until gorgeous strings (performed by **Tilly Chester**) well up like a rising tide, before falling away to leave just the guitar and Tyler's pleading vocal. The upbeat, folkly *Shoulder to the Wheel* restores the balance. Besides boasting one of Tyler's most gratifying melodies, this track really showcases the recording and mixing of the EP, the guitars crisp and bright without overshadowing the other instruments. Once again, the lyrics espouse the comfort and meaning found in relationships with loved ones, "light in the dark" that offers relief from society's ills.

Sleeper, a fixture of Tyler's recent live shows, continues to explore the discontent of living in the modern world, and the need for human intimacy as an anaesthetic. The lyrical theme of sleep is reflected in the dreamlike state of the music, and the backing vocals on the chorus seem almost hymnal. The instrumental *Waltz for Lily*, written for Tyler's daughter's wedding, perfectly accompanies the other tracks in this collection both sonically and thematically, despite the lack of vocals.

As a whole, *All the Pretty Lights* strikes the right balance between exploring new ideas and remaining recognisable to fans of Tyler's earlier work. The songwriting remains

skilled and memorable, but a wider range of instruments (notably djembe drums and electric guitars) and textural and dynamic variation makes for a very engaging listen.

All the Pretty Lights is launched on the 23rd February 2019 at **Elmslie House** in Malvern.

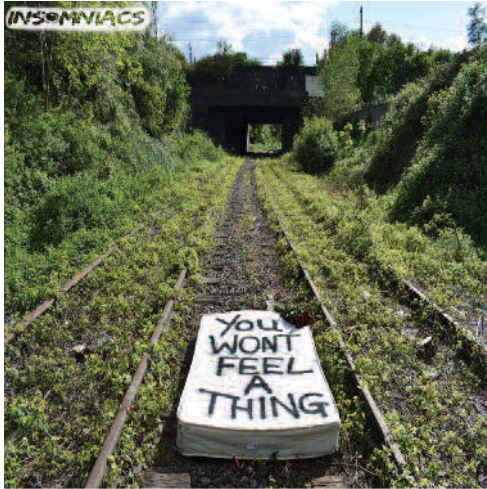
Dan Knight

Insomniacs

You won't feel a thing

Remember when you were a teenager and melodic skate punk seemed to embody everything you thought? Well, I do, and the Insomniacs have taken me back to that time. From their opening tracks that urge you to "Stop thinking, start drinking" this album's upbeat varying surges in tempo are almost addictive. There's a feel of insistence in the lyrics which is backed up by catchy pop hooks and some truly melodic moments that are reminiscent of early Hundred Reasons. The song 'P.M.A.' is relentless, broken up with raunchy harmonies and a thrashing guitar that reminds me of a circle pit. The band insist they'll "Do anything, but just not today" embodying the old punk attitude and mixing it nicely with a jumping glib edge that I love.

"Strike the match and walk away;" 'Expectations' is a song that smacks of the complete sense of aggressive abandon so many of us feel. What's unusual is the interjection of slowed middle eights, dramatic changes and decelerations of tempo that stops the feeling of boredom that I so often suffer



when listening to punk albums. 'All my friend's are stupid' contains the Trashy-fun lyrics "All my friend are stupid because all my friends think that I'm stupid" it's an excellent bouncy tune, like more socially acceptable pop-punk.

'Good Intentions' has one of those choruses that makes you want to sing a long. The vocals have a clear ring to them despite their raspy punk style. I hope it's clear by now that I really like this album.

So, we're on the home stretch and I'm saving most of my word-count for 'Dance with your Demons.' This is one of those end of album songs where the band show you that they have the ability to take things seriously. The description of never wanting to "feel the weight of this world," lack of eye contact and despondency during a body aching Sunday is an, often universal, feeling of hungover melancholy that follows so many people who are lonely and isolated within their lives. Sometimes these 'deep' songs can be a bit jarring (I'm looking at you Blink-182) but this actually works really well with the band's

established style for the rest of the album, the harmonies compliment the subject matter. I'm sold.

Katherine Harris

Elephant Peel

Stay at home Yoko

Last time I reviewed **Elephant Peel**, I felt like I was listening to a surrealist version of The Kinks that you couldn't avoid tapping your feet to. With their new EP 'Stay at Home Yoko,' **Elephant Peel**

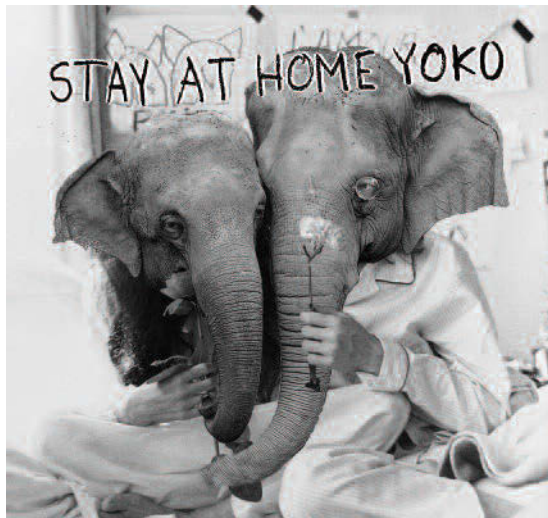
to shine through their lyrics "I'm a hypocrite it's easy to see" stands aloft in a song full of criticism regarding the boring changes in others, be it growing up or being no-fun. This opening offering feels full of energy, the song's ending is followed by the whoops and cheers of a live recording and makes the listener feel completely present and involved with the performance.

The song 'Beecher Street' immediately reminded me of my own teenage years growing up in a place where you meet "deadbeats and dropouts" and you're "dead on your feet." The piano in this track is incredible, somewhere between a Wild West tavern and the Fratellis, it's organised chaos contrasts brilliantly to an extremely tight overall performance full of happy, upstrummed guitars. The idea of dreaming from the gutter is a universal truth present in so much music. There's great lyrical humour that comes with the longing to get out of the doldrums: "Beecher Street, you're so obscene, your face is dirty and your teeth are green." I've looked up Beecher Street and there's one in Halesowen, for now, I think its best I avoid it.

Moving on to 'Climb the Ocean,' a vigorous guitar leads the way into such an uplifting track. The main thing I loved about this song was the harmonies, wistful Ohhs and ahhs smack of a late 60's vibe that I don't hear enough of.

Finally, "The Rut Strut" reminds you of every annoying situation/relationship you've been stuck in. The sense of irritation is palpable: "I'm tired of you and I'm tired of me" This song is full of punchy guitars and feels shorter, simpler and faster than the previous tracks. Its simplicity is the reason it works. That feeling we've all encountered of short tempered frustration is excellently expressed in the form alongside the lyrics. I loved this EP and the consistency in the style offered by **Elephant Peel** is brilliant, the ability to express multiple subjects, including universal truths, elation and complete exasperation in a persistent form is the reason these guys will go far.

by Katherine Harris

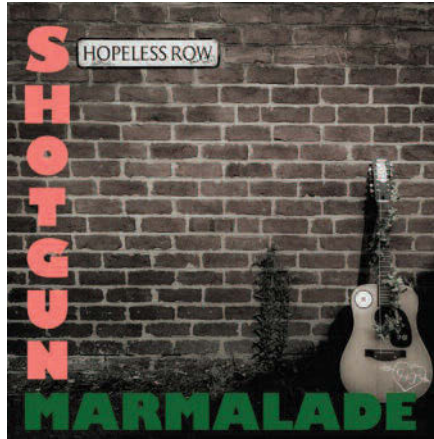


EP art: Kristin Raidloo

don't disappoint. The EP opens with its title track which, after a quick drum roll, launches into a blaze of harmonica and twangy vocals that lament "We're never how we used to be." What I like about **Elephant Peel** is the feeling of self awareness that seems

Shotgun Marmalade Hopeless Row

Sid River, known under the stage name of **Shotgun Marmalade**, released *Hopeless Row* back in August. Mainly playing as a solo act, the album features a more filled sound complimented by a backing band. Now I will be honest, from the first look at the album cover, I thought I was about to review a tribute album to The Clash's *London Calling*, the font is pretty similar. Saying that, musically, think the rawness that The Beat showcased in their lively, ska-esque sets, but twisted with the punk nature of The Sex Pistols. Pretty cool, huh? From the get go, your foot will be stomping throughout this album.



Taking us through many versions of **Shotgun Marmalade**, tracks such as *Denim Credibility* will make your head turn to find who's making that exceptional sound. *Many Feet Are Dancing* vocally reminds me of No More Heroes by The Stranglers which is obviously going to be a quirky compliment. Making the album feel a lot more personal for locals around the West Midlands, *Tale of a*

Stourbridge Lad is a folk tale what can only be thought of as a biography for Sid or someone he knows very well. Versatility through the album builds and builds. There's a folk, punk, ska essence to every track in a way. Hidden with political messages here and there, *According to All Sources* follows rules of people falling into traps. Be more original and unique at the end of the day. There's so many toxic people that turn others in relationships.

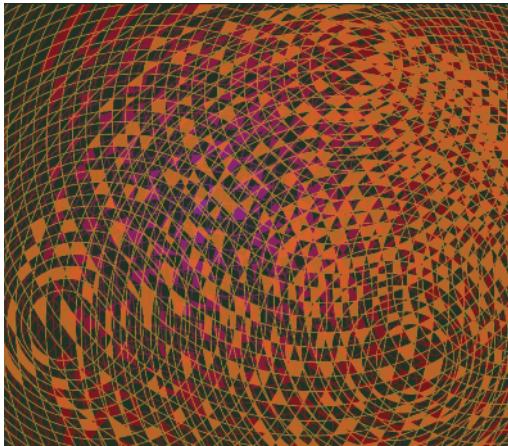
A humble album filled with all the right aspects to make it a well put together experience.

Chloe Mogg

Delphini | If Only

If Only daringly casts it's net wider into the subconscious of indolent counter culture.

'Fascinating': begins with an ominous percussive pattern of immediacy reminiscent of Bonham, twinned with gnarly snarling oscillations, a bass winds in rapidly harking back towards less wandering dub followed by a subtle delayed guitar. It's spoken word intoned phase building to quick accents of cow bell – *"You're fascinating, That's what I reckon, A minute with you Would be gone in a second."*



All at once you are enveloped in the synaesthetic geometric web of intrigue that is **Delphini**! A supergroup quartet comprising of seasoned cosmic psychonauts who have previously cut their teeth in the likes of prolific outfits **Glowpeople** (Rod Noverly – drums/fx, **Chris Cordwell** – Keys/ Synths/ Fx,) **Bable** (Lee Car – bass also of **Sonic Trip Project**), and **Third Quadrant** (Shaun **Baley** – Guitar, also of **Monkeytrial**).

Build on a solid foundation of rhythm and groove, Car's bass and Noverly's insightful yet sensitive percussion propel each cut here with panache and precise incisions, showing a formidable melodic reinforcement whilst underpinning atmospheric forays of swirling fx tapestries and engaging incendiary Eddie Hazel esq lead licks.

'Nova Bass': - follows luring us in further with a mantra and its quick metronomic swaying couplets, with juxtaposition of keys this brings to mind a bizarre cross of Ozric Tentacles meets the faux French Indian exotica of keyboardist Korla Pandit.

'Open Mind': - here we are cocooned in warm tendrils, notch cut melodies trail over vast open spaces submerged as submarine frequencies exploring the depths snorkelling a reef for serendipitous serotonin between coral.

'Burst Fruit' Taps into the collective's spacey motorrock sensibilities.

'Lo'in' is more like Tangerine Dream, a care free, serene flower unfurling in strata beams of sunlight, reaching petals upwards.

'In The Trees': - with it's fizzing 8 bit sway, accentuated percussion in a hazy reflective bosanova is somewhat reminiscent of a more electronic Penguin Café Orchestra meeting trip hop happy

producers in a lift. The spoken word here is a meditative kabbalah affirmation of individualist silviculture : *"I'm climbing my tree /As you're climbing yours / Decisions are branches / We're climbing through doors / We're on different boughs / We're moving apart / Further away /Than we were at the start."*

Recorded live in their own habitat *'If Only'* appropriately captures the intimacy of this rising band sans any studio gloss. Just as you would encounter them at a festival or small club.

Pick up your digital copy here

<https://delphini.bandcamp.com/album/if-only>
and CD - <http://www.whiterabbitrecords.co.uk>

Craigus Barry



The Naughty Corner Ukeleidoscope

Local ukulele fun-da-mentalists, **The Naughty Corner** return this month with a brand full length affair, their third and most varied album to date, entitled rather aptly, *Ukeleidoscope*.

Now don't worry, the three-piece haven't gone all avant-garde or lost their sense of humour, but they have expanded their sound with a nod to ska, a wink to Noel Coward and a brief flirtation with punk. The band deliver their most rounded album to date. Of the eleven tracks on offer, only four are covers, whilst the originals see the band tackle the big issues such as mobile phone obsession, and trying to keep up with the latest trends in their own unique way.

The band open proceedings with one of the aforementioned covers, although you could easily mistake the John Farnham obscurity *Sadie The Cleaning Lady* as a 'Corner original with its delightful tongue in cheek lyrics and infectious melody. Throw in the band's own bubbly delivery, contagious choral harmonies, a kazoo solo and viola, the Naughty' ones deliver the perfect opener.

From such insatiable beginnings, the band change direction and indeed mood as *Smokescreen* sees the group tackle relationship issues with a plucked intro and a straight face. And whilst the song is lifted by those harmonies, **The Naughty Corner** prove they're more than capable of playing it straight.



The surprises keep coming as the band take us to Havana for a Latin flavoured ode of wanton desire as *She Sets Me On Fire*, aided with the continuous shake of a tambourine, choppy strums and stunning, complimentary duel nationality vocals, this listener is in the mood for a rumba. *Smobie* sees the band deliver a spiky punk chant, as the band try to avoid the smart phone zombie as they take to the streets. Elsewhere, originals like *Fomo Rudy*, *Blondie's Tide Is High* and a certain Peter Andre's *Mysterious Girl*, with an infectious effortless ease that'll have you singing along before you realise.

Ukeleidoscope sees **The Naughty Corner** expand their vision, whilst retaining their humour and likeability to deliver their most essential disc to date. Grab a copy and a smile at the door when **The Naughty Corner** next take to the streets, or commander your local and keep those winter blues at bay.

Will Munn



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Joe Joe Jims a 'new' LIVE MUSIC venue, in Rednal

Fletchers Amusement Arcade was founded in 1920 on what was then a busy highway between Birmingham (Longbridge) and Bromsgrove. Even in my early days behind a wheel, this route was still in heavy use with mechanical monsters populating a deep scar off North towards the West Midlands. The Arcade still stands, complete with rows of bandits, penny slot machines and even crazy golf. The bar is limited but has craft ales and plenty of spirits while around the corner you can find coffee percolates and inside the entrance, Pizza ovens welcome you with tempting aromas and warmth.

Crammed between bandits, slot machines, videos and pick 'n' mix, lies a moderate stage where I have enjoyed a few gigs running up to Christmas. I have to say, the combination of casino glitz and blitzing bands makes for a wonderful quirky atmosphere and I highly recommend a visit.

Paul Bridgewater and his newly formed **Electric Blues Rebellion** drew me to the neon lights first. It was only their 3rd live session and they were, er.... electric. They performed a blistering set full of funk and rock. All the way from a 'World Gone Crazy', a storming, 'Rock Me Baby', the sultry blues of 'I Just Wanna Make Love to You' and getting Stoned out on 'Tumblin Dice'. Paul, as ever, showing just why he's one of the best rock vocalists around in the UK.



I returned for the first ever Sunday 'lazy afternoon gig' which just so happened to also be the last day of **Matt Woosey's** UK tour before he returned home to Germany. A stupendous, 'Let it Flow' sums up Matt's full band: electric lead with rhythm woven around Matt's acoustic guitar. It contrasts with the organic, eclectic, jazz-fused 'Lighthouse' which sees Michael on keyboards sweeping in the atmospheric waves over Dave and Lukas's rhythm.



Matt closed on his strutting cock version of 'Lil Red Rooster', preening and pecking his way to close a wonderful Sunday of music lifted from his 'Live At Gallagher's Nest' album.

So, you've rolled a few coppers down the slots, twisted an arm or two maybe, sipped some ale, and you're ready for the buzz that always accompanies **Arcadia roots**. I was drawn back again to see the **Dave Small, Danny Gauden, Tom Callinswood, and Josh Terry** collective. Kicking off with the Reggae ripped rhythm of 'Where You Gonna Run To', **Arcadia Roots** create their intoxicating atmosphere which seems to fit so well in **Joe Joe Jim's** as fans slot in between machines.



Led Zep's, 'Whole Lotta Love' gets saucy with a spicy coat of Levi Roots Reggae. A 'new' 'Take Me Higher' brings the dual percussive strike of Tom joining Dave on drums and djembe, beating up the rhythm over the heavy bass rumble and Danny's guitar. **Arcadia Roots** bask in the glow of the arcade, and it made for a brilliant evening.

There's plenty more live music in the pipeline, bands are being added as we move on into 2019. Check the website for details, at www.joejoejims.co.uk

Graham Munn

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From the Jam

Cheltenham Town Hall | 18th Jan

Like most in the audience I grew up listening to and believing in the Jam. The modest guitarist supporting the headliners clearly grew up listening to Oasis b-sides and Jake Bugg. I am not complaining, our Newport troubadour Jake, successfully charmed - a "tunnel-visioned" crowd determined to celebrate their band - with his open chord vignettes of everyday life.

In 1982 our young lives stalled fleetingly, in the winter of our disbelief, as a result of the Jam disbanding. I remember blinking incomprehensively at the TV, as the news spread like an unwanted cold sore. This was our band! They looked like us, dressed like us, articulated our opinions, listened to our music, voiced our anxieties and captured our first pangs of love and desire. Who could do justice to this legacy?

From the Jam are touring the 40th celebration of the **All Mod Cons** album and respectfully allow the songs to resonate and echo down the years with convincing stage versions. The songs themselves are as pertinent and contemporary as a knowing look when Brexit is whispered in polite society. From the Jam are well aware that the songs mean so much to their devotees and are respectful of the history, allowing the songs to speak for themselves. The legacy of Weller's *All Mod Cons* album is apparent for all. Clearly, From the Jam, are more than capable of protecting and projecting the legacy...a task about as easy as changing Paul Weller's mind.

Foxton's incarnation were tasked with negotiating their way through a one and a half hour set: one they achieved with a well-honed professionalism. Helped in no small part by the accomplished lead singer, **Russel Hastings**, whose insouciant swagger is, oh so familiar, he even grips his guitar like a loaded weapon. All stringed proceedings were matched by the nonchalant metronome of a drummer who made the rhythm section all his own (I can still feel the drum beats, thumping in my chest, if I close my eyes). The energy and urgency of the evening ignited with the selective hits finale that witnessed the soundman punching the air and singing along, along with a frontline of fans that created an atmosphere reminiscent of those heady days of

the late 70 and early 80s: "There was even one gent dressed in regulation white towelling socks and loafers for Christ's sake." From the Jam not only did justice to the legacy- they lit up Cheltenham Town Hall with "fire and skill"...

The happy and thankful phalanx of co-believers and all the Mods were conned (ahem) by the willing suspension of disbelief for 90 minutes: as the band and the fans kicked off! Big time!

For the record, the line: "The way the sunlight flits across your skirt, makes me feel I am from another world, to touch your face in the morning light, I hope you are always going to be around..." is still one of the most beautiful and poetic lines that this, then 14 year old, has ever read. Just how did Paul know what I was feeling and thinking?

Nicholas David Burford



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ROOTS 2 RAVE

DIY ONE MAN KICK ASS BAND

Dick Whittington (script by Chris Bennion) Norton Theatre Group | 10-12 January 2019

Not sure whether it's me getting older or more probably sillier but I did enjoy another seasonal offering of slapstick, gratuitous overacting, singalong ditties, dodgy in-jokes and the traditional audience involvement at **Norton Theatre Group's** production of Dick Whittington. It's one of the few pantos based on a real-life story, but in this case only providing a minimal framework for Chris Bennion's wacky and often off-beat script - always a good sign!!

The real-life Dick Whittington was from Gloucester, so we start at his mother's decidedly dubious cafe in the docks with its one-dimensional murine-based menu. Sarah Floenza Barbarella Gertrude Whittington (Paul Jones) is very proud of her son (Rob Milner) who aims to impress his sweetheart Alice (Rebecca Smith) by becoming Mayor of London. Sadly his plans are foiled by the evil power-crazy King Rat (Vicky Blake) who concocts a flurry of fake news in the gutter press to smear the innocent Dick, plans an unsuitable ballot-box-stuffing campaign (sounds familiar?) and finally recruits her, sorry his Rat sidekicks Deano, Franky and



Sammy (Chris Daly, Sarah Bennion and Yvonne Ralphs) to shanghai Dick and spirit him overseas aboard Captain McSplash's (Carl Ives) leaky lugger.

Not looking promising at this time for our hero, but the tale departs even further from the traditional as the boat founders and the occupants are improbably washed up three miles from Las Vegas where naturally Elvis himself (Michael Fox) is the first person they meet! Dick shows his mettle by foiling the Rats' attempt to rob The King's casino with the help of his cat Shadow (Jake Hurley) - so Elvis rewards him with a wadge of greenbacks and the use of his yacht to return to London - bear with me on this...

King Rat is persuaded to apologise for the printed slurs and a nail-biting election comes down to the casting vote of the Rat sidekicks who repay their boss's ill-treatment and niggardly wages settlement by voting for Dick to be Lord Mayor - well he did give them cheese to eat after all... Probably not therefore a tale for the historical purist - but a thoroughly chucklesome offering with plenty of humour for the kids and not-so-young in equal measures from the pen of Mr Moldiwarts himself!

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

Marcus Brigstocke Evesham Arts Centre | 2nd Dec

Critics and journalists alike criticise female comics for only talking about being female or for solely highlighting the female condition. Our support comic this evening, **Rob Rouse**, is just as guilty; consistently, observing his middle-aged and middle-class life through a magnifying glass normally used for reading 6pt font on food packaging. Rouse is a Dad and he never lets you forget it, this is no criticism but the constant hour long references to Dad dumps, crap holidays with kids and curry infused flatulence only allows for knowing nods and smiles rather than genuine guffawing. However, the final one-liner about the combined eye test and prostrate check was worth the wait... "better with or better without?"

The set up for the main act - **Marcus Brigstocke** - revealed that the comedian had been replaced by the devil himself, one: "Louis Cipher." We are privy to cheap theatrics, ambient lighting, unsettling red face paint and stuck on horns that, if nothing else, ensured our attention. The sight of a middle-aged man frolicking to an unknown track did make for painful viewing though...

The central premise of the whole show - entitled "Devil May Care" - was a quasi-intellectual exploration of the dichotomy between good and evil, and how we judge what is acceptable and what is morally questionable. Tentatively enquiring which audience members watch porn bought the predictable stunned silence. The only audience member to respond, a 36 year-old lady, earned the respect from everyone for her honesty. For which she was pardoned by Old Nick himself!

As we know society is conveniently split in two: "pre-avocado and post-avocado." I grew up thinking avocado was a colour, an

aspirant colour no less for your bathroom suite. The evening's audience I think was made up of a mainly post-avocado oeuvre and this once again was reflected in the at times obvious targets: Waitrose (tick), Donald Trump ("an oversized whatsit with yellow pubic hair for a wig"...tick), Radio 4's preoccupation with grammar (just three or four examples? You do the math[s]...Tick)

As one journalist summed up the show - just the same jokes and topics, "with a fresh lick of red paint." - and yes, I wish I had thought of that line!

Unlike the President of America, I am pleased that we ventured out in the rain (See what I did there? tick). The ironic sermonising from Brigstocke was at times relentless and yes predictable, although, he saved his most important declarations for the final minute of the show and of course Boris belongs in hell but Marcus is correct and the devil is in the detail: "If we don't keep using Evesham Arts Centre and offering our continual support..."



My girlfriend is no journalist, but I will allow her the final insight... "I am glad we went and it was entertaining but I can't remember one joke from the night."

Nicholas Burford

Tankus The Henge

The Marris Bar | Friday, Feb 22

Tankus the Henge have built their reputation on unforgettable songwriting, spectacular live performances and relentless hard work, playing hundreds of shows across Europe and building a devoted fan base along the way.

"...I love that. It reminds me of a mixture of early Kinks, Squeeze and a bit of Blur mashed in. His voice is his own, ...so great. I love it." Dave Davies – The Kinks

Their funk-fuelled repertoire is wildly eclectic, ranging from New Orleans inspired swing to heavy rock riffs, and since their beginnings in the ratty alleyways of London's Soho, the band has evolved into a wild groove machine.

Musically inspired by bands from the British invasion of the 60s and artists such as Tom Waits, Blur, Randy Newman and Queens Of



The Stone Age, and with lyrics influenced by 20th Century American literature, specifically the Beat Generation and Gonzo journalism, Tankus the Henge defy categorisation. Their hair-raising show, like no other, has to be seen and heard to be believed. Like a psychedelic, rock n roll octopus – only with four more legs.

Buy the ticket, take the ride.

Perhaps best known for his song-writing prowess, Steve is also a blinding, dazzling guitarist with a style echoing the elaborate rhythmic 'folk baroque' of Bert Jansch and Davy Graham, but also drawing from classical, roots and the tradition to create a style that is typically Tilston.

Advanced tickets are £12.50, available at The Old Rectifying House, the Kestrel Gallery in Sidbury and at the Tourist Information Centre at the Guildhall in Worcester.

Tickets can also be booked by calling/texting 07771 825331 or emailing acoustic.music.convention@btinternet.com

Doors and bar open at 7:15 pm and music starts at 7:45 pm.

Coming up next month is Sally Parker on the 14th March and Karin Grendel-park & Karl Robins on the 28th.

Acoustic Music Convention

Steve Tilston

Old Rectifying House, Worcester | Feb 28th

Acoustic Music Convention are proud to present another fantastic showcase at the Old Rectifying House on February 28th.

Steve Tilston, featured on the Later with Jools Holland and BBC Radio 2 Folk Award Winner, is not to be missed. The hugely talented performer will present an intimate evening of music featuring unique arrangements of popular folksongs alongside his own critically acclaimed material.

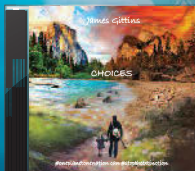


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Starlite Campbell

The Iron Road | Pershore | Thurs 13th Dec

Suzy Starlite and Simon Campbell open their box of mince pie treats, to fans and gathered families who have tracked across to the Iron Road, on this cold December evening. Apart from the pies, they are joined by Johnny Henderson on Hammond, and the legendary Steve Gibson on drums.

Simon takes up the lead and vocals for a personal perspective in "Brother", taken from his 36 album; a blues smoked eulogy with Suzy pumping out the bass.

Suzy turns to a foxy, funky bass sound, while Johnny layers in some Hammond over Steve's rhythm, and Simon on his hollow-bodied custom Drake, setting up the imploring "I Need A Light". Somebody save his soul, because it's about move up a gear. Steve and Suzy punch out the beat as the hard, rock-edged "Preacher Of Love" calls out, with Hendo swirling out those ivory inlaid notes from the spinning Lesley horns. I Like It Like That!

Cutting into their Blueberry Pie, we're offered up a slice of sultry blues served with rich tasty guitar leads, as Simon pours out the passionate lyrics of "I Cry Over You", before fronting up to his amp, feedback fuzz fading out the song. Suzy is feeling "Guilty" as she takes up the vocals on the slow, throbbing confessional.

Next we jump back to 36, and Simon's having "Misgivings", as he sets out on the road with Dylan on the radio. The effervescent, jazz-splattered blues rides the Gibbons groove over ever organic keys.

The sweet sounding Drake is put aside for the rock-meisters Telecaster; Johnny turns to piano, Steve's whipping up the rhythm with Suzy's bass, and Simon is "Hot As Hell"! The bass gets heavy, as the steaming, rock-edged riffs tumble from the bedrock Fender for "Sex Is The Key"; sultry, suggestive and sublime. Suzy is slinging her short-scale Gibson, punching out a heavy rhythm on top of the pumping bass drum, and "Mr Big" swaggers across the stage while the Iron Road rocks out. We soon come back for another slice of



pie, this time the superlative, slinky blues of "Walkin' Out The Door". Simon works over his Maestro Echoflex, adding colour to this fabulous song; the featured single from their Blueberry Pie album. It's a tough song to follow, but when such a pinnacle has been scaled we're all up for more. A shiver goes down the backbone and even the band are "Shaking All Over".

A grand finale is inevitable; such is the nature of live music: it ain't over till it's over, or someone switches the power off. A medley spins out, and Simon's on a roll, stretching and cajoling his way through the songs. "Cocaine" is handed out, Bowie's "Fame" tumbles into place, we're back on the powdered stuff; it's a brilliant closure full of guitar hedonism. The reverb off the Echoflex oscillates through the room while the amp screams its frenzied feedback, wah-wah is pumped, and Hendo is drives the Hammond hard. Steve is given his lead on the percussion while Suzy runs some riffs on the deep-throated Mike Lull Custom bass, and the band exhaust the final drops of energy into the night, closing a resounding Iron Road gig.

The band have released a double vinyl album of the renowned Blueberry Pie, sadly a bit out of reach for my pockets on the night, but they will no doubt be many finding their way into Christmas boxes, as Starlite Campbell tour right up to Christmas before heading back to their Isle Of Man base.

Graham Munn

Matt Woosey Band

Elmslie House, Malvern | 25 Nov '18

If your idea of the perfect blues club is a dingy basement with coal-black walls and sticky floors, then **Elmslie House** ain't for you. Built in the 1860s and operating as a girls' school from 1921-1994, the house is now a privately-owned concert venue in the heart of Great Malvern and tonight sees the return of local hero, **Matt Woosey**, on a short UK tour away from his home in Germany. Matt is a spectacularly good guitarist and a fine singer and his star really should be shining brighter. With his regular band flanking him onstage, he sticks to his acoustic for almost the whole gig, letting the band add the musical light and shade.

The set closely mirrors the band's recently-released live album and is the perfect showcase for Matt's singular brand of blues; one that leans and sways in several tantalising directions but always lies rooted in the kind of funky, rolling grooves that Sean Taylor purveys and the late, great Terry Callier specialised in. 'Cruel Disposition' and 'Find A Way' set the tone of the first set immediately, the band falling in behind Matt with dependable ease. Close your eyes and it's not hard to hear prime-era John Martyn. 'Same Old Blues' is anything but (complete with its exhortation not to compare him to Seasick Steve ("I got my blues and he got his")), leading to a masterful solo take on Dolly Parton's

'Jolene' that segues into the hotbed of 'Don't Tell Nobody'. The second set ramps up intensity and tempo, Woosey's impressive slide-playing to the fore. Willie Dixon's 'Little Red Rooster' gets a full makeover and 'Hook, Line And Sinker', 'I've Seen The Bottom' and 'Black Smoke Rising' are simply great, bluesy rock songs, played to perfection. And after a near two-hour set, and the encore of 'Lighthouse', Matt leaves the stage to a standing ovation, the band carrying the song home with mellow guitar licks and jazzy, atmospheric keyboards: a fitting end to a consummate performance.

Nicholas John



Graham Munn

The Luke Doherty Band

St James RC Church, Welland | Sat 12th Jan

As regular visitors to local festivals, such as Upton and Gloucester Blues, as well as those purveyors of fine music, The Prince Of Wales and The Iron Road, Luke and his fellow troubadours found their way to more sacred ground. On a dark, cool night, this lovely church seemed a rather remote location, but then they are from the valleys, so maybe they felt at home. Stone surfaces and high roof, can present tricky acoustics, but provide plenty of space for Luke's soaring riffs to be aired. Even the water seemed to have turned into wine, and a feast awaited the band, to bridge the break between sets, fuelling an explosive second set and probably the long drive home.

They warmed up with a buzzing "King Bee", Luke on his Les Paul, vocalist and harpist Paul Morgan, the bassment tones of Mal Preest, and frenetic drums, beaten by Simon Parratt. We're soon dipping into their 2018 album release, *Night & Day*, and the punchy rock of "Have You Thought About That?" The song reflects on life today, with eyes glued to a smart phone, CCTV following us everywhere. Have you thought about that? Thumping drum and bass power out through the aisle, projected from the apse, while Luke's guitar only gives way for Paul's provocations.

A harp-blown, drum-driven "Reaper" has Luke scything in on a bed of rapid-flowing rock, with no fear of any grim apparitions on such hallowed ground, but a superb groove nonetheless. Luke launches into a "Plastic Sea", over thunderous rhythms from Mal and Simon. Fish filled with plastic swim through a tidal surge of beautiful, sweet tasting guitar, before crashing back through the rising wave of bass and drums.



Tracking firmly in the grooves of the excellent *Night & Day*, an impassioned and tear jerking "When You Cry" fills the lofty void above our heads. Luke serves up a feast of gorgeous guitar while Paul delivers the heartfelt lyrics and bleeding harp of what is one of the highlights of an album full of delights. Close your eyes and let it wash over you.

You're not going to get through one of Luke's gigs without having your ears pinned back by a bit of Hendrix. Simon lets rip for a stupendous "Watchtower", with Luke on his Strat, bending strings for the classic. "John Lee Boggie" delivers a shuffling rock n' roll, Simon sticking it to the boys, as Luke's guitar dances on the rhythm, boogie-ing all night long. A splash of funk, and the dazzling "Solar Flares On The Sun", which should have closed the service - but there was to be a final hymn, another nod to Hendrix. Luke worships perhaps a personal 'god', as "Little Wing" drifts into the heavens; a stunning guitar solo, with Mel having his moment on bass, and Simon beating the retreat, to close a brilliant evening of rock and blues, preaching at St James RC Church.

Dan Patlansky

Artrix, Bromsgrove | 28 Nov '18

It had been a while since seeing Dan, and only 15 miles up the road it was a 'no brainer'! Dan and his band; Tom Swann on bass, Tom Gatza on keys and Jay Bone on drums, were playing to a nicely filled theatre with its spacious stage. Personally I prefer a more intimate setting, allowing the bands to get in close and connect. That said, there is no mistaking the quality, never mind the width!

Dan's Stratocaster chops out 'Love City', which reminds me how gritty Dan's voice is; it certainly ticks the box for hard rocking blues. 'Johnny' brings soaring, diving guitar chords, over pumping drum and bass, and we are up and running. In a 'Heartbeat', thumping rhythm is pulsed into life, as dirty guitar kicks in and Dan sprays out the lyrics of a gloriously grungy rock blues. Tom G adds some lovely piano, that floats out above the surging rock sounds. Slow, hard-slugging bass fills the air, and Patlansky lifts the throttle a little for the superb, slow-burning blues of 'Hold On'. Honey-sweet guitar licks melt across the room to merge with Dan's expressive and spellbinding vocals.

'Too Far Gone' brings heavy-weight, thundering rock, with Tom Swann's bass throwing the punches; the world's on fire. 'Judge A Man': the verdict is stupendous, onion-raw rock, Dan's fingers dance along the fret of his battered Strat, bringing the world to its knees, under rolling thunder. Dan drops into a solo guitar opening, before the drum ticks in and guitar warms for 'Big Things Are Going Down'. Beautiful guitar slowly seeps into our minds, rising into an electrifying lead before falling away to nothing more than a slow pulse. A stunner. My scribbled, spidery notes say simply: wow!



There's a bit of raw rock to come, as Dan Patlansky's fast-fingered riffs weave over storming drum and bass, not forgetting the crucial keys filling every jagged crack.

'My Chana' is an opportunity for Tom, Tom and Jay to showcase their undoubted talents, and Jay lets rip on a spectacular, atmospheric, storm-driven drum solo. Dan's expression says it all, as he soars away into the heavens, carried by superb floating guitar. He faces his Stratocaster, picking and poking at, flipping, and flexing the reverb springs. The ecstatic audience demand an encore, and the band willingly oblige, delivering the dirty rock blues of 'Dog Day'. We've all been there, let's be honest: a biting, blistering rocker to close a rock-riven evening at The Artrix.

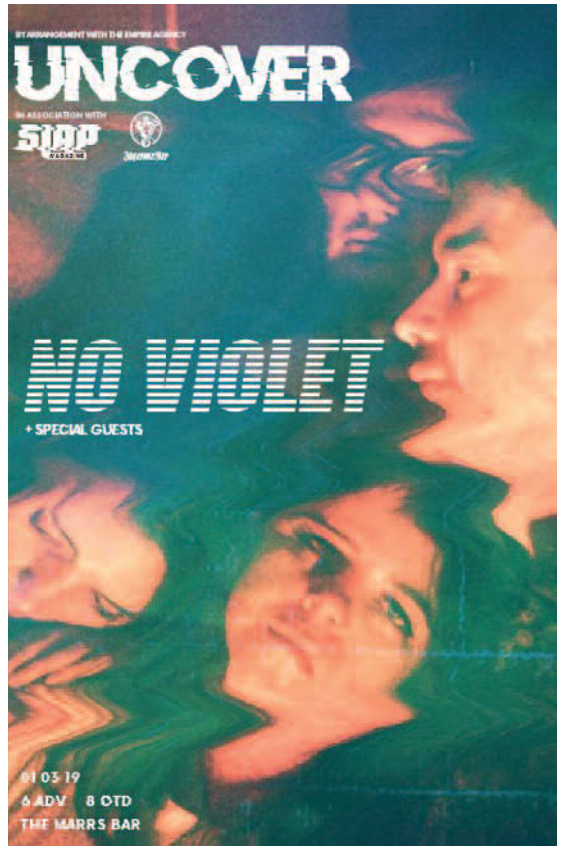
Graham Munn
SLAP FEB 27

The Deadnotes

Saltwounds, Time Of The Mouth

Annie's At The Courtyard, Worcs | Friday 22nd Feb

The **Deadnotes** return to Worcester this February, following their awe-inspiring performance at The MARRS Bar in 2017. The indie-punk trio, from Freiburg, Germany will headline the new Worcester venue, **Annie's At The Courtyard** on Friday 22nd December as part of a short UK tour with fellow compatriots, Kid Dad. 2019 looks set to be an exciting year for **The Deadnotes**, with a new album pencilled for the autumn and extensive tourdates throughout mainland Europe already announced. Support comes from Worcester melodic-punks, **Saltwounds**, who will be celebrating the release of their new single 'Breakdown' and reinvigorated Worcestershire pop-punks, **Time Of The Mouth**. Tickets on sale now: www.wegotickets.com/faithfulcityshows



February 2019 at Artrix

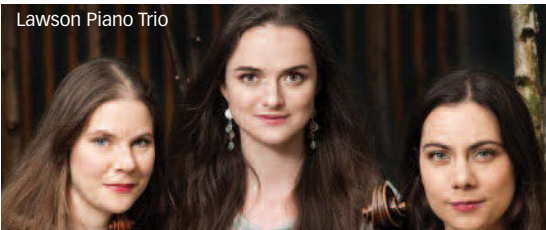
February at **Artrix** is packed full of top-name comedians, sold-out gigs and stars of the silver screen.

This month Artrix hosts many well known comedians including political satirist **Andrew Doyle** on 1 February, **Mark Watson** on 6 & 7 February and **Gary Delaney's** sold out show on 28 February.

The laughs continue with **Edinburgh Comedy Award Nominee Darren Harriott** on 2 February, **George Egg** returns to Artrix on 9 February and **Britain's Got Talent's Mandy Muden** performs on 15 February. **Andrew Maxwell** performs his stand-up show Showtime on 16 February; on 21 February **Rob Newman** comes to Artrix with his show based on his hit BBC Radio 4 series and **Barnstormers Comedy** returns on 23 February.

Cinema highlights include **Young Picasso** on 5 February, **Stan & Ollie** 8 to 14 February, **Colette** 15 to 20 February and a **Royal Ballet Live Screening of Don Quixote** on 19 February.

There's also a variety of music on offer throughout the month, including two outings from **Bromsgrove Concerts** with **Endymion** on 8 February and **Lawson Piano Trio** on 22 February.



After great success at Artrix last year, **The Best of Wham!** returns for more 80s nostalgia on 9 February. **Creedence Clearwater Reimagined** comes to Artrix on 15 February, followed by a sold out show from **The Searchers** on 16 February. **Fairport Convention** return to Artrix on 17 February and **The Whitney Houston Live Experience**, starring the phenomenal vocals of **Nya King** comes to the Main Stage on 23 February.

During half term, families can enjoy spell-binding puppetry in **Mimi and the Mountain Dragon** on 21 February, along with screenings of **Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse** on 18, 20 & 22.

Details of all events can be found at www.artrix.co.uk or by calling Box Office on 01527 577330.

Walter Trout & Wille & The Bandits

Robin 2, Bilston | 26th Nov '18

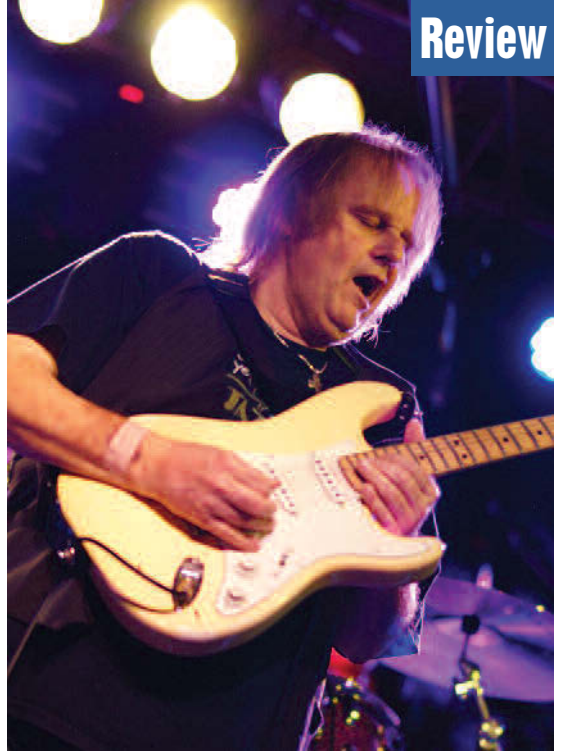
Christmas came early for blues lovers as six-string legend Walter Trout, and new world blues-rockers **Wille And The Bandits** roll into town to rock the Robin. As queues form, the excitement is palpable as punters chat about the last time they caught Trout perform, whilst others murmur their appreciation for the Bandits during recent festival appearances. As we are ushered through the doors expectations linger in the air.

The lights drop and we are greeted by the expressive six-string bass of **Matt Brooks** of **Wille And The Bandits**, creating an intoxicating, introductory lead groove. Drummer **Andy Naumann** takes his seat and joins with an inventive display behind the kit. **Wille Edwards** adds waves of delicious slide guitar, taking the already potent sound to a new high, adding his gravelly tones to the mix. The band whip up a storm as they deliver the 'Bad News', pushing the boundaries of the blues, mixing the power of Cream and the loose funk of The Jimi Hendrix Experience with world rhythms. Andy beats out a rhythm on a Djembe to signal an inspired and inventive take of Peter Green's 'Black Magic Woman'. Andy flips between his regular kit and the acoustic percussion, whilst Wille again showcases his dexterous use of guitar to the obvious delight of the audience. The penultimate, swagger of 'Jack The Lad' sees Wille holler out an impassioned and believable "well you don't need love baby...you just need me" and on this form, who's to argue?! With mention of a brand new album in the new year, the trio conclude their set with a contagious, funk-licked finale in the shape of '1970', to the rapturous applause of fans and new converts alike.

Having been suitably heated to the boil by a scintillating opening set, the capacity audience, down their drinks and surge forward as **Walter Trout** and his band file onstage. A quick crank of his guitar and we're away, as he tugs and bends exotic shapes from his Fender ably backed by the driving rhythm section of **Micheal Leasure** (drums) and **Johnny Gripacic** (bass), whilst fresh from the US, **Tommy Zigzag** adds evocative keyboard fills as the band kick into 'Life In The Jungle'. From such a powerful opening salvo, Trout follows up with a brand new track entitled, 'Me, My Guitar And The Blues', letting us into a secret: there's a new album on the way. Aptly titled 'Survivor Blues' slowly burns, it's set to be yet another spine-tingling masterpiece as the emotion seems to ring through his Mesa-Boogie amp, whilst he peels off another evocative solo.

Walter, obviously enjoying himself, delivers one liners on his time spent treading the boards with Canned Heat and the resulting damage that led to his liver transplant, before offering a choice selection from his therapeutic comeback album, *Battle Scars*. The moving 'Please Take Me Home' sees Trout stare at his own mortality, as he faces death square on. You can practically see the passion pore from the blues survivor as he explores his guitar and delivers a suitably warm yet weathered lead that can't help pull at the heart strings. In a similar vein, Walter borrows from Blind Willie Johnson as he fights back proclaiming "I ain't ready for the cold cold ground". His band rally round him with a flurry reaffirming his desire not only to live, but to return triumphantly to the blues.

Trout beckons regular cohort, (and Deep Purple aping) **Andrew Elt** to the stage for a near metallic romp through 'Playin' Hideaway', before a further nod to his roots brings out John Mayall's brother Rod, for a sensitive take on the Jimmy Trapp tribute, 'Blues For Jimmy T'. The band showcase their talents, before wringing out every last drop of energy much to the delight of his loyal followers.



Trout has performed at the **Robin 2**, night on twenty previous occasions and it's easy to see why they continue to ask him back, despite his advanced years and previous battles with ill health, Walter is, as previously mentioned, a true survivor and continues to thrive each and every time he straps on that trusted Strat, with his crack band, and **Wille And The Bandits** in tow this will surely go down as one of the hottest shows of the year.

Will Munn

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How to be a Stand-up Comic!

Last month, Slap Mag brought you the first of a two-part guide to becoming a Stand-up comedian, looking at how to write some comedy material. In this edition, we're going to examine the best way of taking this to the stage, giving you the best possible chance of success!

It's not likely you're going to get an offer to play the O2 just yet, so start small with one of the many local open mic nights that run in pubs and other venues throughout the area. Social media and an online search will turn up a wide variety of potential gigs.

It's much better to go and watch first, before you decide to perform. That way you'll get an idea of the kind of gig it is, audience size, level of professionalism etc. It's also a chance to get to know other acts and, importantly, whoever runs the night as you'll need to get their agreement if you want a spot in the future.

If you want to look as professional as you can, there is no substitute for learning your material (often you see acts who write 'cues' on the back of their hands but if you can avoid this, you'll look really slick).

Make sure you rehearse out loud and try recording your set so when you listen back, you'll get a sense of how it will sound to the audience, this helps to improve your delivery no end.

On the night of your performance, make sure you arrive in plenty of time, don't worry about where you are in the running order (if you're funny it doesn't matter!) and don't make the mistake of downing too much 'Dutch Courage' before you're on, it honestly won't improve your memory or comic timing.

There is no 'silver bullet' for comedy, you only find out what works through trial and error, but don't be surprised if they don't laugh at your best gag, or are rolling in the aisles when you say something you don't think's particularly funny, just learn from the process.

The more gigs you do, the better you'll get, but for now, just get that first one under your belt and be proud of yourself that you did it!

Theo's Comedy Skool runs as 5 weekly workshops at **Artrix** in Bromsgrove from Monday February 25th 2019. Contact the box office, or email comedytheo@hotmail.co.uk

Theo



Soul Ledbury The Royal Hall | 3rd Nov



The night for me began in the car park of the local police station. As I reversed my car and parked up for the short walk along the narrow road, buttressed by looming historic buildings, leads in to Ledbury town centre and to the Royal Hall.

Soul Ledbury were celebrating their first anniversary of putting

Ledbury on the Soul map; on paper the first anniversary celebrations were as ready as a restless child on Christmas eve. **Mike, Alister** and **Heather** intended to do it in style and that is just what they did. We know in our society that one should never "discuss politics or religion." Comfortingly, for this established event it is all about religion and the belief in the religion that is Northern Soul and that is why the phalanx ascended the Hall in considerable numbers. Comfortingly, politics has nothing to do with Soul Ledbury and on the night in question; it was strictly dancing that was at the forefront of the believer's minds on this Saturday night...

Mindful of the generational game, looking across the heavily congested dancefloor, tighter than a Two Ronnies sketch, many were attempting to turn back the hands of time as their dancing feet defied the week's pressures and distractions. For five hours, as a result of 5 DJs, perhaps time wasn't won back but it was delayed for one wonderful moment as the converted set out to shake, shimmy, slide, spin and "stomp" to the music that defined an era and in many instances...them.



The Soul club's logo consists of two images. One of the images is of the Market Hall, a superb building rising up like the Royal Hall in the centre of town. And like the Market Hall, Soul Ledbury are black and white, they deliver a good quality night of Soul, no grey areas and no other asides. The politics of the town council may pervade the Market Hall but Soul Ledbury are content to do what they do best. The second image of the "clenched fist" is a querulous one, for some, who knows who Tommie Smith and John Carlos are? Following Saturday night at the Royal Hall I guess the "clenched fist" still suggests defiance, solidarity and yes, celebration.

Having made my way through the jostling crowd to get to the door, I descended the steps, crossed the constricted road that has to be carefully manoeuvred and turned down one of four blind corners, all the while thinking that the Soul police would have struggled to reverse down these roads at speed...

*Please note, the next event will be held on 15th of February 2019, at the Royal Hall, Ledbury, HR8 2EY. 7pm until 12, all £5 of the door tax goes to a very worthwhile charity.

The Swilgate Scuttler

The Desperados

The Sociable Beer Company | Fri 14th Dec

It's another chilly night in the dark backstreets of Worcester, where the warm, crowded **Sociable Beer Company** looks like a welcome escape! Cheltenham-based, barnstorming band **The Desperados** are setting up, just on the other side of the glass. Time for a beer.

The trio of Blake, Robbie and Karolina, certainly look the part. A heavily bearded Blake leads from the front, like a Ned Kelly figure. They bring a crunching rock groove, with blues stripes, demanding that you let your hair down and party. The Desperados are soon cruising across the Southern States; "*Mississippi King*" is a ripping rock blues that sees Robbie paddling his bass through humid air. The engines build up to full pressure for the cracking "*Hard To Handle*", and Karolina thrashes her drums, battering cymbals into submission.

We're in a brewery, so it only seems right to bump up the rhythm. Robby and Karolina fire in their salvo's while Blake leads us into the aptly named "*Beer Drinkers And Hell Raisers*", with a guitar chaser to follow this heady round. The mad "*When The House Is Rocking*" rocks the joint, as we head towards a break, but not before Blake takes the sting out a little with a lovely, mellow, slow blues rock song, "*Wicked Game*", before stamping back with their second set.

Their own sultry blues, lifted from their EP *Foxy Lady*, regains the attention of the crowded bar. **The Desperados** bite hard into the night, their axes threatening anyone in reach, as might be expected from this gang of renegades. A fire-cracking "*Jumpin Jack Flash*" gets all feet stomping along to the old Stones favourite.



A rich shade of blues colours this second set, with "*Born Under A Bad Sign*" and "*The Thrill Is Gone*" allowing Blake his BB King moment, as well as the ever addictive "*Cocaine*", and even a touch of Hendrix' "*Voodoo Child*".

The band sign off with Robby standing high on a table, with hair flowing, and a bandana tied around his wrist; Blake and Karolina are having fun, too, "*Going Down Slow*". It had been a wildly entertaining evening in a venue that was new to me, but obviously not to the crowd who had filled the place, bringing an atmosphere and much needed warmth to the evening. *The Desperados* escaped back to Cheltenham, but no doubt will be raiding Worcester regularly in the new year, well worth looking out for; a fun-filled, hard rocking gig.

Graham Munn

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Nozstock The Hidden Valley 2019

Rowden Paddocks, Bromyard, Here | 18th - 21st July

Did you know **Nozstock** is one of the UK's longest running festivals? And yet, somehow, nearly 21 years since its inception, the Herefordshire festival still feels like an exciting newcomer. Without doubt, that's due to the efforts of the family-led team behind it. Their endless supply of ideas keeps things fresh and new, every single year.

Also, at the heart of **Nozstock** is a come-one-come-all ethos, and over the last two decades that has been message has been received loud-and-clear by festivalgoers, with people of all ages now in attendance at the event. And not only do they arrive in droves, they're coming back, year in, year out. In large part, that comes down to the "small festival, with a big heart" description, often bestowed upon the event.

So what's new?

Now with the 20th anniversary in the rearview mirror, all eyes are firmly fixed on 2019's festival. A key part of the planning this time around has involved plans for an even bigger emphasis on younger folk and families that plan to attend **Nozstock** for a weekend getaway.

"We wanted to announce some new elements for next year [2019], after listening to feedback and realising there were some simple things we can do to enhance the experience for families", says Ella Nosworthy, who runs the festival with her father and the rest of her family.



Dan Barker

Among those "simple things" are some changes to camping for families. For one, there will now be a limited amount of pitches – 5m² in size – made available in advance. This'll help ensure families who need extra space can get it when they book. In addition, there will be extra space within the family camping area, full stop, while child-friendly toilets will also be introduced this year.

If that's not enough, supplies will be made available to family campers – while stocks last, of course – including loo roll, wet wipes, sanitiser, sun cream, toothpaste and more. There'll also be a dedicated breastfeeding space. In short, the Nozstock team plans to cover all bases.

But none of that would count for anything without entertainment for the little people. Fear not, though, as the Little Wonderland Kids Area returns in 2019, with workshops in break dancing, graffiti, beat boxing, felt-making and up-cycling of clothes all planned. So, that end of things is more than covered. Oh, and entry to that is completely free too.

Tickets: from £125 for adults, while under 12s get in for free

Russ Cook



Charlie Rimmer

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Fri 08 NEWCASTLE RIVERSIDE
Sat 09 GLASGOW QMU
Fri 15 SHEFFIELD LEADMILL
Sat 16 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
Thu 21 HULL BACK TO OURS FEST
Fri 22 CARDIFF TRAMSHED
Sat 23 BIRMINGHAM O2 INSTITUTE

MARCH 2019

Fri 01 BRIGHTON CONCORDE 2
Sat 02 NORWICH UEA
Fri 08 BOURNMOUTH O2 ACADEMY
Sat 09 LONDON O2 SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE

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Comedy Listings:

Evesham Arts Centre (Evesham):

Raw Comedy (Fri 1st, 20:00)

Another great night of stand-up comedy. Featuring: Will Mars, Harvey Hawkins, Billy McGuire, Chris Jones, Max Poole, Sarah Lee and Mike Keenan.

Artrix Arts Centre (Bromsgrove):

Andrew Doyle: Friendly Fire (Fri 1st, 19:30)

Friendly Fire is his seventh solo stand-up show. It follows the critically acclaimed Thought Crimes, which ran at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe last year and later to the Soho Theatre in London.

Darren Harriott: Visceral (Sat 2nd, 20:00)

Edinburgh Comedy Best Newcomer Nominee Darren Harriott, returns with a brand new show, recent appearances on Live at the Apollo (BBC Two), Russell Howard's Stand Up Central (Comedy Central), The Now Show (BBC Radio 4), and Fighting Talk (BBC Radio 5 Live).

Mark Watson: The Infinite Show (Wed & Thur 6th & 7th, 20:00)

Cluster-bombed with yoghurt on 'Taskmaster', half-killed on 'Bear Grylls' Celebrity Island', Watson returns to what he's best at.

George Egg: DIY Chef (Sat 9th, 19:30)

Direct from Total Sell Outs at the Gilded Balloon, Edinburgh Fringe 2018 and Brighton Fringe 2018, award winning comedian George Egg (the 'Anarchist Cook') returns with his latest show.

Mandy Muden (Fri 15th, 19:30)

Mandy Muden, direct from her sensational appearances on 'Britain's Got Talent' on the road with her new hilarious show 'Cunning Stunts'.

Andrew Maxwell: Showtime (Fri 28th, 20:00)

Andrew is known for his eagle-eyed, passionate current-affairs comedy, with appearances on BBC Radio 4 (News Quiz, Welcome To Wherever You Are, Public Enemies). He's been seen on - among others - Live at the Apollo (BBC One), Have I Got News for You (BBC One), Celebrity Juice (ITV2) and Mock the Week (BBC Two); and to a whole new generation he is the voice of MTV's Ex On The Beach.

Rob Newman's Total Eclipse of Descartes (Thurs 21st, 19:30)

Based on the hit BBC Radio 4 series Rob Newman's Total Eclipse of Descartes, Rob's whirlwind tour of philosophy explores 3000 years of good and bad ideas from Pythagoras to driverless cars, by way of levitating Buddhist monks, Pavlov's dogs, Jean-Paul Sartre's mum, Fat Man On A Bridge, T. Rex, Morrissey and wire monkeys. In a world gone crazy, can philosophy help?

Arts, Exhibitions & Cinema

Until 11 Feb Born to War by Peter Masters, Courtyard Hereford

Until 31 March - 98 Lace: From Classical Beginning, Artrix Bromsgrove

2nd Worcester Alternative Artist Market, Heroes Bar, Worcester

2nd until 27 April. Matisse - Drawing with Scissors, Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

Until 27 April Ballets Russes, Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

2nd - 1st March Art of the Great War, The Guildhall, Worcester

5th Young Picasso, Artrix Bromsgrove

5th & 6th Leaning into the Wind: Andy Goldsworthy (Pg) Courtyard Hereford (With panel discussion On Wednesday)

7th Before I Die - Worcester Arts Workshop

7th Word Heroes - Heroes Bar, Worcester

8th, 11th, 12th, 14th Stan & Ollie Artrix Bromsgrove

8th-21st Stan And Ollie Courtyard Hereford

11th Licensed to Rhyme - Café Morso, Barnt Green, nr Birmingham, B45 8NE

12th Gustav Klimt's The Kiss Pop Up Painting workshop, Worcester Arts workshop

13th Quentin Crisp: Naked Hope Artrix Bromsgrove

14th SpeakEasy, Waylands Yard, Worcester

16th Love the Arboretum Light festival, Worcester

Barnstormers Comedy February 2019 (Sat 23rd, 20:00)

Sit back and enjoy a great Saturday night out as Barnstormers Comedy' compere introduces three top comedians.

Gary Delaney: Gagster's Paradise (Thurs 28th, 20:00)

One of Britain's leading one-liner comics returns to the road with another onslaught of lean, expertly crafted gaggery. A Mock The Week regular and recent star of the new Live At The Apollo series. Renowned for a near unrivalled volume of high-class gags.

Theo's Comedy Skool: Feb 2019 (25th Feb-25th Mar, 19:3-21:30)

Learn the art of stand-up comedy and perform in front of a live audience at the end of the course. Local performing arts coach Theo Theobald has guided countless new comedians to the stage many of who were first-timers!

For further details email Theo direct on comedytheo@hotmail.co.uk

Hereford Left Bank: The Speakeasy, Bridge St, Hereford

Farcical Comedy Presents... The Left Bank Comedy Club: Lloyd Griffith with support from Bob Wildfire, Jon Wagstaffe, Laura Ollerton + MC, James Ryan (Sat 2nd, 19:30)

Tickets are £10, available at <http://herefordleftbank.com/>

The Courtyard (Hereford):

Heineken Comedy Club (Fri 8th, 20:30)

Featuring Jarlath Regan & Danny Clives. Other acts TBC.

Heineken Comedy Club (Fri 22nd, 20:30)

Featuring Katie Mulgrew, Kai Sumra and Travis Jay.

The Prince Albert Rodborough Hill, Stroud

CrazyBird Comedy presents the great 'El Baldiniho' (Thurs 21st, 14:00)

The CrazyBird Comedy Club is proud to bring Comedy this magician His show is called Buy Wand, Get Wand Free. It's 50 mins long, and includes magic, jokes, songs and lots of audience interaction with the audience (suitable for 6-12 age). At the end, El Baldiniho will do a brief Magic workshop and all the children get to take a few simple tricks home, all supplied as part of ticket price
For tickets contact Nick Bird - 07967 214477 / crazybirdcomedy@gmail.com

Open mic & comedy nights (Various):

The Holly Bush (Cradley Heath)

FREE, every Thursday, 20:00. Pros and newcomers try out new material. Visit bushcradley.co.uk

ComedyJAM (Firefly, Worcester)

FREE, Third Wednesday of every month, 19:45. Pros and newcomers try out new material. Visit [facebook.com/comedyjamworcester/](https://www.facebook.com/comedyjamworcester/)

16th until 18th March Members of Herefordshire Art and Craft Society (HACS) present Landscapes of the Mind, Courtyard Hereford

16th Susannah & The Sunflower, Courtyard Hereford

19th Half Term Shadow Puppetry Worcester Arts Workshop

19th Half Term Painting and Drawing 'Colour Explosion' Worcester Arts Workshop

20th/21st Half Term Pottery classes Worcester Arts Workshop

25th Vamos Theatre Present: A Brave Face, Courtyard Hereford

Until 20th Mar - The Precious Clay:

porcelain in contemporary art Museum of Royal Worcester

Until 3rd March Susan Birth, Mixed Media Exhibition.

Coach House Theatre, Malvern

For Arts Events & Listings
email Kate at:
arts@slapmag.co.uk

Music Sessions/Open Mics

Every Monday - Folk Night

Worley's, The Swan, Stourport

Every Monday night - Acoustic Night

The Rollin Hills Restaurant, Upton Upon Severn

1st Mon of Month - Acoustic Session

The Pickled Plum, Pershore

First Monday - Open Mic

The Sociable Beer Company

4th Mon - Singaround

Piddle House, Wyre Piddle, Worcs

Fortnightly Mon & Wed (check website) - Folk Nights

Three Horseshoes, Frampton-On-Severn, Glos

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 other Tue - Open Mic Night with Pete Kelly

The Queen's Head, Wolverley

Every Tue - Open Mic

The Firefly, Worcester

Every Tue - Plug and Play

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

3rd Tues - Acoustic Jam Night with Ian & Kevin 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

Every Wednesday - Open mic

The Maverick, Stourbridge

Every Wednesday - No Poetry Open mic with Cheating Lights

The Garrison at the Grapes, Hereford

1st Wed Every Month - Sing/Playaround

The Talbot Hotel, Knightwick

Every Wed - Swan Sessions - Open Mic

Worley's The Swan, Stourport

Every Wednesday - Ukulele Session

The Old Cock Inn, Droitwich

Every Wednesday open mic

The Imperial, Worcester

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

2nd Wednesday Permission to speak - spoken word & poetry

Clap Trap The Venue, Stourbridge

2nd Wednesday Unplugged Night

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

First and third Wednesday - The Dragon Folk Club

The Dragon in The Tything, Worcester

Every Wednesday - Irish Session

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Every Wed Music night - Andy Lindsay & Debbie Parry

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Fortnightly Wed Open Mic

The Queens Head, Redditch

Last Wednesday Priest & The Beast Jam Night (No covers) 7pm

Clap Trap The Venue, Stourbridge

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 - Open Mic

The Victory, Hereford

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

Kempley Village Hall

1st Thurs - Black Hill Tune Club

The Crown Inn, Longtown, HR2

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 Open Mic

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Every Thursday Open Mic

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

First Thurs - Open Mic

The Oddfellows Arms, Astwood Bank

Every Thursday Open Mic Hosted by Polly Edwards & Ben Hall

The Old Pheasant - Worcester

Every Thursday Open Mic

The Eagle Vaults, Worcester

Every Thursday - Acoustic Folk Session

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Worcs

Every Thur - Open Mic Night/Jam Night

The Swan, Barbourne, Worcester

Every other Thursday, Open Mic

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Every Thursday - Spoken word 7-9pm

Abbey Road Coffee, Great Malvern

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

2nd Thursday - Malvern Storytellers

The Great Malvern Hotel - £1.50. See 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 (8.15pm)

Bishop Allenby Hall, St Stephen's Church, 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 & 4th Sundays Open Mic with Tom Doggett 6pm-9pm

Thatched Tavern, Honeybourne

Sunday Live Open Mic

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Every Sat - Disco

Ducker Bar & Beer Garden, Leominster

2nd Sun - Singaround Session

The Yew Tree Inn, Peterstow, Herefordshire

Every Sun 8.30-Midnight - Open Session

Social Club, West Malvern

Every Sun Lazy Acoustic Afternoon with Liz Kirby 4pm

Red Lion, Market Place, Evesham

Sunday Shenanigans Open Mic Night 7pm every Sunday

Clap Trap The Venue, Stourbridge

2nd Sun - Acoustic Session

The Hop Pole, Droitwich

Every other Sunday open mic hosted by Ruben Sebright 9pm

The Oil Basin, Worcester

Every other Sunday open mic hosted by Ruben Sebright 9pm

The Unicorn, Malvern

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

Please let us know if any of the above are no longer running or if your regular event isn't listed

Friday 01 February 2019

Beefywink, Reuben Lovette, Vampire Money
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Ferrets
Millers Arms, Pershore

Midnight Shift
Barbridge, Stourbridge

Surprise Attacks Presents: Steve Strong, Voronoi, Too Piste, A I W A S S
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Michelle Williams
The Old Bank, Stourbridge

Test Drive
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

The Honey Dewdrops
Elmslie House, Malvern

The Christians
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

U2sm Live
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Little Victories
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Arkansas Dave
St George's Hall, Bewdley

Will Killeen
The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

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

Mr Keith And His Orchestra
Clows Top Victory Hall, Bewdley

Just Charlotte
Little Lakes Holiday Park, Bewdley

T.Rextasy
Artrix, Bromsgrove

We Are Muffy, The Leaking Machine
The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Cuginis
Drummonds, WORCESTER

Alex Lleo
No.3A, Bromsgrove

Devon Mayson
The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

The Scrutineers
Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Skrood
The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

More Human Than Human
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

The Barron Knights
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Solid Gone
Café René, Gloucester

Neil Ivison
The Old Pheasant, Worcester

Eban Brown - Former Lead Singer Of The Stylistics
Somerset Arms, Cheltenham

Jamie Knight
Ye Olde Talbot Hotel, Worcester

Sing-A-Long-A Grease
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Soul Stripper
Droitwich Working Men's Club, Droitwich

Barbara Dickson
The Regal, Evesham

Frazer Leford (6Pm)
The Ambassador Club, Evesham

Groovyhead
The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

Witcher
The Blue Bell, Ryall

The Rhythm Slingers
The Tall Ship, Gloucester

Jay & Eli
Red Lion, Evesham

Whiskey River Boys
The Golden Cross, Hereford

The Forfeits
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Whiskey River
Golden Cross Inn, Hereford

Motown Night
Hogarths Stone Manor, Kidderminster

Mr Keith And His Orchestra
Clows Top Victory Hall, Kidderminster

The Rhcp Experience
Kidderminster Harriers FC, Kidderminster

Independent Venue Week, Effigy For Sleep, The Jericho Racks, The Vht's
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Far From Home, Moon 2
Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Splitting Frequencies Present Mc Dreps
Priors Croft, Malvern

Polly Edwards
The White Pheasant, Stanford, Worcestershire

Voodoo Blue
The Queens Head, Wolverley

Redditch Soul Nights
The Rocklands, Redditch

Fred Zeppelin
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Saturday 02 February 2019

Icymi, Air Drawn Dagger, Follower
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Final 4
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Dublin Jacks
Marlbank Inn, Malvern

Fret Wolf
The Boars Head, Kidderminster

Vintage Inc., Worcestershire Worldwide Tour
Express Inn, Malvern

The Official Deceivers
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Polkadot Robot
The Cavalier, Kidderminster

Fifty 4
The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

The Unconventionals
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Rubble
The Imperial Hotel, Hereford

Mods And Sods
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Matt Peplow
The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

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

Tonbo, Mad King Ludwig
The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Tristan Watson And Patsy Gamble Trio
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Rumblestrutters
The Alehouse, Stroud

Iw - Get Cape, Wear Cape, Fly / Sbp / Watercolours / Andy Oliveri
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Night Crawlers
The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

Lounge Toad
Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Ultimate Portrait Of Matt Monro
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Gordon Giltrap With Special Guest Nicholas Hooper
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

J.D.Bullit - Country Singer
Dumbleton Village Club, Evesham

The Rock 'N' Roll Era
The Kings Theatre, Gloucester

Trashed
Dick Whittington's, Gloucester

Billy Driscoll
The Greyhound, Gloucester

The Emperials
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Fired Up
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Jay & Eli
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Terry Nolan
Golden Fleece, Hereford

Two Push Charlie
The Wobbly Brewing Company, Hereford

Built For Comfort
The Chestnut, Worcester

It's All About Buddy
GWRSA - Railway CLUB, Hereford

Head Honcho
Reet Petite, Leominster

Dave Morris
The Ducker Bar, Leominster

Drift Away
The Angel, Leominster

Independent Venue Week, Ready 5, Sick Pins, Zetland Road
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Rockaway Record Fairs Record And Cd Fair, Open 10.00-16.00, Admission £1:00,
[Http://Rockawayrecordfairs.Tumblr.Com/](http://Rockawayrecordfairs.Tumblr.Com/)
Imperial Hotel Widemarsh Street, Hereford

Miss Chief & Mr Meaners
The Three Horseshoes, Malvern

Satellite Down + Neon Creatures
Iron Road, Pershore

Brass Beatz
The Oast House, Redditch

Skint
Woodland Cottage, Redditch

Green Haze (Green Day Tribute)
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Abba - Swede Dreamz
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Sunday 03 February 2019

David Craythorn
The Hare And Hounds, Wollescote, Stourbridge

The Rockbottoms
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Matt Sayers
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Kezza Belle
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Issy Winstanley
The Old Courthouse, Cheltenham

The Jukebox Jems
Bottles Wine Bar, Worcester

Uncover: The Pink Diamond Revue, Legpuppy, White Noise
Cinema, Hey Jester
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Griff Collins
Red Lion, Evesham

Vo Fletcher (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Nicole Sherwood (5Pm)
Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Glas (4Pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Live Jazz Sundays (3pm)
The Cottage in The Wood Hotel, Malvern

Blackballed, Plus Special Guests, Under A Banner
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Tuesday 05 February 2019

Crossed Ukeys
Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Wednesday 06 February 2019

UB40 Ft. Ali Campbell & Astro - Christchurch
Hagley Park North, Stourbridge

Drifter - Bob Marley's Birthday Celebration
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Jeff Gillett
The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Brooke Sharkey
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Trevor Babajack Steger
Café René, Gloucester

Featuring: The Stoned Cherries
Dragon Folk Club At The Dragon Inn, Worcester

Vo Fletcher & Tyler
The Plough, Worcester

Arielle
Beoley Village Hall, Redditch

Thursday 07 February 2019

Jake Abbot
The Hand in Glove, Worcester

Gordie Tentrees & Jaxon Haldane
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Alex Lipinski's Supported By Matt Owens (Noah & The Whale)
The Prince Albert, Stroud

The Searchers | Farewell Solo Uk Tour
The Courtyard, Hereford

The Ronnie Scott's All Stars
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Delaire, The Liar, Frown Upon, Ten Tombs, King Cove
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Alex Taylor
The Tank, Gloucester

Weirdshire Presents Mark Stevenson
Babar Cafe, Hereford

Mike Wilton
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Alex Bayross 8:30pm
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Smokey Joe's Jazz Club - Sara Colman
Smokey Joe's Coffee Bar, Cheltenham

Word Heroes - Charity Spoken Word Night: Spoz, Holly Daffurn, Chris Hyde (Aka 1990S Chris), Joe Norris, Charley Barnes, Kevin Brooke, Katie Harris
Heroes, Worcester

Beth Rowley, Josh Flowers
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

Friday 08 February 2019

Finding Kate
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Shaded Squares
The Red Lion, Amblecote, Stourbridge

The Unconventionals
Millers Arms, Pershore

The Nitecrawlers
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Remi Harris
The Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge

Free At Last
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Pay The Piper
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

The Edge Of The 80'S Show
Alcester Members In, Alcester

Fred Zeppelin
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Black And Blues Band
Worley's At The Swan, Stourport-On-Severn

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

Endymion

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Thee Ones, Jack Page

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Tina Turner Tribute Night

Catshill Working Mens Club, Bromsgrove

Secret Cabaret

Drummonds, Worcester

Adam Lee

The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Under The Influence Band

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Narco Lounge Combo

Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Peter Donohoe Plays Mozart – Orchestra Of The Swan

The Courtyard, Hereford

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

The Bluebell, Upton On Severn

Stiff Bizkit

2 Pigs, Cheltenham

The Strays + VNTs

Café René, Gloucester

Hot Beige, Frazer Lefford, Chris Smee

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Jay & Eli

The Bridge Inn, Worcester

Alex Nash

The Old Courthouse, Cheltenham

Folk in The Foyer: Grand Union Three

Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

The Hill's Angels

The Wheatsheaf, Worcester

Lee Price

The Ambassador Club, Evesham

Stella Thomson & The Band, Eric Walker

The Tank, Gloucester

Pete Gill & The Good Time Charlies

Royal British Legion, Hardwick, Gloucester

Claire L Shaw

Red Lion, Evesham

Tequila Mockingbird

The Golden Cross, Hereford

Sonic Boom Band

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Mister Wolf

The Lamplighter, Rother Street, Stratford Upon Avon

Chloe Mogg

Veeno, Kidderminster

Vague, Sydonia

Reet Petite, Leominster

Electric Eel Shock (Jap), Kick The Clown, Whippasnappa

Iron Road, Pershore

Big Jim & The Black Cat Bones

The Queens Head, Wolverley

As You Were (Liam Gallagher & Oasis Tribute)

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Left Hand Man

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Foo Fighters Tribute

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Saturday 09 February 2019**Pulverise, Up Shot**

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Soul And Motown Night

Amblecote British Legion, Stourbridge

Black Heart Angels

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Vintage Inc.

Virgin Tavern, Worcester

Simon And Garfunkel Through The Years

The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Delray Rockets

The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

38 SLAP FEB**Voodoo Blue**

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

TCT Charity Show, Kick The Clown, The Lightweights,

Chloe Mogg, Ruben Seabright

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

The River Rea Duo

The Express inn, Malvern

Completely Covered

The Cross Keys, Alcester

Abba Tribute Night

Treetops Pavilion, Bewdley

The Best Of Wham!

Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Country Superstars Experience

The Civic, Stourport-On-Severn

Treble Fours

The Cricketers, Worcester

Grasscourt, Firestation

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Imaner

Woodland Cottage, Bromsgrove

Steve Page

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Bon Jovi Tribute - Bad Medicine

Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

Uk Guns N' Roses

The Courtyard, Hereford

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds

The Retreat, Ledbury

Be Bop A Lula

The Roses, Tewkesbury

Witcher

Oak Apple, Worcester

Black Rabbit

The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

Steve Linforth

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

The Ska45's

The Pear Tree Inn & Country Hotel, Worcester

Waw Live Lounge

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Lewis Clarke Duo

London Inn, Cheltenham

Respect To Aretha

Swan Theatre, Worcester

Nearly Dan – The Spirit & Sound Of Steely Dan

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Mackerel Sky

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

Arcadia Roots

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

The Upbeat Beatles

Guildhall, Gloucester

Kaos

New Ridge & Furrow Abbeydale, Gloucester

Black Rose

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Cody

Wagon Works Ground, Gloucester

Jo Harman

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Hot Rox

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Louis Bennett

Golden Fleece, Hereford

Immy & The Boatman

The Green Dragon, Malvern

The Strays

The Chestnut, Worcester

Whiskey River

Crown, Dilwyn, Hereford

Times Square

The Red Man, Kidderminster

Samantha Leigh
The Kingsford, Wolverley

The Alltones
Reet Petite, Leominster

The Fordsons
The Monkland Arms, Leominster

The White Feather Collective
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

The Quireboys Unplugged, Rebecca Downes
Iron Road, Pershore

Foyer Folk: Red Shoes
Number 8, Pershore

Imaner
Woodland Cottage, Redditch

The Spice Girls - Spice Forever
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Sunday 10 February 2019

Tanny Blue
The Hare And Hounds, Wollescote, Stourbridge

Kez From The Murmur
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Wheel Sea
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Chimp On A Bike
The Lamb Inn, Eastcombe, Stroud

Mark West
The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

The Classic Rock Show
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Sit! And Other Suggestions
Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

The Searchers
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Ben Joseph & The Laylows (3Pm)
Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Liz Kirby
Red Lion, Evesham

Paul & Caitlin Of The Roving Crows
The Oak Inn Staplow, Ledbury

Will Killen (5:30pm)
The Chestnut, Worcester

Roger Roberts (5pm)
Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Claire Boswell
Be The Change, Worcester

Matt Walklate & Tom Attah (4pm)
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Tuesday 12 February 2019

American Idiot
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Wednesday 13 February 2019

Amoeba Teen Showcase
The Maverick, Stourbridge

The Hard Rain Band
The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Motus Illusion
Café René, Gloucester

Louis Schwizgebel
Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

Alex Tracey
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Thursday 14 February 2019

James Whitehouse
Crabmill Oldswinford, Stourbridge

Mumbo-Jumbo
Bromsgrove Folk Club, Bromsgrove

Rob Heron And The Tea Pad Orchestra
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Stroud Jazz Sessions With Aidan Pope Trio
SVA, Stroud

The Elvis Years
The Roses, Tewkesbury

Vamos Theatre Presents: A Brave Face
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Drew Hall
The Tank, Gloucester

Katy Hurt
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Chris Hutchinson Piano/Vox
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Limehouse Lizzy (Thin Lizzy Tribute)
The Marris Bar, Worcester

Friday 15 February 2019

Michael Buble Tribute
The Belbroughton Club, Stourbridge

Eastwood
The Red Lion, Amblecote, Stourbridge

Final Warning
Millers Arms, Pershore

6 Out Of Ten
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

The Salt Road
The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Clockwork
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Harcourt Players
Piesse Of Piddle, Wyre Piddle

The Angelettes
Wharton Park Golf & Country Club, Bewdley

Creedence Clearwater Reimagined
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Dave Sharp
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Poppy Ws
No.3A, Bromsgrove

5:15
Drummonds, WORCESTER

Luke Philbrick And Solid Gone
Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Stone Broken
The Mill, Digbeth

Feed Me Milk, Motel Thieves
2 Pigs, Cheltenham

Miss Pearl And The Rough Diamonds
Malvern Town Football Club, Malvern

Andy Quick
Café René, Gloucester

Musical Youth, Rafeelya & The Nlb, Bell Party Frontier
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Ewan Pollock
Ye Olde Talbot Hotel, Worcester

Swinghoppers
Whitehouse Hotel, Worcester

The Bohemians
Swan Theatre, Worcester

Crooners
Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham

Cara Dillon
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Wille And The Bandits
Guildhall, Gloucester

Christian Smith
The Tank, Gloucester

Jacob & Drinkwater
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Paul Chief O'neil
Red Lion, Evesham

Echo Bandits
The Golden Cross, Hereford

Kazabian A Tribute To The Mighty Kasabian
The Mansefield, Rugeley

The Fabulous Bordellos
Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

Dire Straits Uk
Holme Lacy Hotel, Hereford

Rob Challis

Veeno, Kidderminster

Old Skool Valentine's Disco With Ed Steel Fox

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

The Spike Drivers

White Hart, Winchcombe

Eastfield, Plus Timothy Parkes, 8:00Pm

Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Take That Greatest Hits The Sing A Long

Te Palace Theatre, Redditch

Midnight City

The Queens Head, Wolverley

Shenanigans Open Mic Showcase

Claptrap The Venue, Stourbridge

Definitely Mightbe V Adored

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Saturday 16 February 2019**Michael Buble Tribute**

The Belbroughton Club, Stourbridge

Dance in Misery

The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

The Joe Elvis Show

The Cross Inn At Kinver, Stourbridge

Midnight Sun

Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Polkadot Robot

The Wheelhouse Marina, Upton On Severn

Mother Popcorn 2:30Pm Gig

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Dreadzone

The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Obscure

The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

The Melvin Hancox Band

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Sax Appeal

The Green Dragon, Malvern

James Baker

The Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Jaywalkers

St James's Church Welland, Welland Nr Malvern

The Searchers

Artrix, Bromsgrove

Steve Ferbrache

Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Legend

The Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove

Reclaim; Set Fire

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

The Stormin Norman Band

The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

Ruben Seabright

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Cross And Macca

The Railway., Cheltenham

English Symphony Orchestra – Wagner'S Die Walküre Act 1

Swan Theatre, Worcester

Fleetwood Bac

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Trevor Babajack Steger

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Fezz (A Homage To Steely Dan)

The Marris Bar, Worcester

Mud On The Tyres, Candy Mountain

The Globe, Hay On Wye

Frontrunner

Gordon Bennetts, Hereford

The Silhouettes

The Left Bank, Hereford

The Way

Imperial, Hereford

Polkadot Robot

The Wheelhouse Marina Bar, Upton Upon Severn

40 SLAP FEB**The Reflections**

The Chestnut, Worcester

Tor Phillips

The Kingsford, Wolverley

Chimp On A Bike

The Old Lion Inn, Cleobury Mortimer

Earworm's, Terence J Hughes, Only Blanchflower, Rob**Powell, Rob Murray Mason**

West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

Boondogz

Reet Petite, Leominster

Mervyn Stutter

The Market Theatre, Ledbury

Floorboards, Broken Lungs, Horror On The High Seas

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

The Newgrass Cutters, Phil Capaldi, Pete Brown, Richard**Collins, Andy Crowdy**

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Pink Floyd Experience Show

Te Palace Theatre, Redditch

McGoldrick, Mccusker And Doyle

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Hopwood Junction

Mettis - HDA Sports Club, Redditch

Cheshire Brooks

Woodland Cottage, Redditch

Sunday 17 February 2019**Bryony**

The Hare And Hounds, Wollescote, Stourbridge

Deemo

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Meg Shaw

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Natalie Hobbs

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

Fairport Convention

Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Legends Of American Country

The Roses, Tewkesbury

Badlands Present William The Conqueror Live "Outstore"**Free Show (4Pm)**

The Bottle Of Sauce, Cheltenham

Tone Tanner (5:30pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Neil Ivison (5pm)

Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Luke Doherty Band (4pm)

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Monday 18 February 2019**The Classic Rock Show**

Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Tuesday 19 February 2019**Bsydes, Ed Poole, Ewan Pollock**

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

John Adams, Harmarie, Ramona Rose

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Wednesday 20 February 2019**Crazy Goat**

The Carpenter's Arms, Miserden, Stroud

Ray Cooper

The Prince Albert, Stroud

Jamie Smith'S Mabon

The Courtyard, Hereford

Vincent Flatts Final Drive

Café René, Gloucester

Creedence Clearwater Reimagined

Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Featuring David Fisher

Dragon Folk Club At The Dragon Inn, Worcester

Ducking Punches, Harker, George Gadd

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Thursday 21 February 2019

The Music Of John Denver Performed By Chris Bannister
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Jeremy Tuplin
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Lazybones, Reuben Lovett, Mirages, Gremlins
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Folk in The Foyer: Jacob & Drinkwater
Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

Vinny Peculiar
The Plough, Worcester

Leon Daye
The Tank, Gloucester

Ian Luther
Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

Trevor Babajack Steger
Reet Petite, Leominster

Chloe Mogg Acoustic 8:30Pm
The Oil Basin Brewhouse, Worcester

Yamato – The Drummers Of Japan
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Les Carter (Carter Usm, Ferocious Dog) & Doozer
Mcdooze, Aka Smokin' Donuts, 8Pm
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Fastlove
Te Palace Theatre, Redditch

Friday 22 February 2019

Witcher
Millers Arms, Pershore

Faithful City Shows Presents: The Deadnotes, Saltwounds, Kid Dad, Time Of The Mouth
Annie's At The Courtyard, Worcester

Jayne Peters Band
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Mumbo-Jumbo
St Stephens Church, Malvern

The Test Pilots
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Frazer Lepford
The Pheasant Inn, Toddington

Phase 2
The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Follicles
The Lodge, Stourport-On-Severn

Lawson Piano Trio
Artrix, Bromsgrove

The Rock Bottoms
No.3A, Bromsgrove

Mute The Flute
The Hanbury Turn, Bromsgrove

Mitzy
Catshill Working Mens Club, Bromsgrove

The Bob Porter Project
Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

The Leon Daye Band
The Alehouse, Stroud

The Swamp Stomp String Band
Café René, Gloucester

The Rhythm Slingers
The Royal, Cheltenham

Madonna Tribute Evening
Hagley Golf Club, Worcester

Vince Freeman
The Old Courthouse, Cheltenham

Paul Cheif O'neill
The Bush Inn, St Johns, Worcester

Keith James in Concert - The Songs Of Leonard Cohen
Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

George Wilson And His Reggae Vibe
The Gate Inn At Honeybourne, Evesham

The Clone Roses
Guildhall, Gloucester

Michael® Starring Ben - The Magic Of Michael Jackson
Malvern Theatres, Malvern

Danny McMahon
The Tank, Gloucester

Dudettes
The Doctors, Gloucester

Bity Booker
The Globe, Hay On Wye

Gravelly Hill
Red Lion, Evesham

Worried Men
The Golden Cross, Hereford

We, The Catalyst, Second Self, Balckbird
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Tom Griffin
Left Bank, Hereford

Under The Influence Band
The Red Man, Kidderminster

The Gillies, Bernard Hoskins, John Mosedale & Faith
The Birch And Stock Folk Club, Kidderminster

Hump De Bump
The Sociable Beer Company, Worcester

David Laine 60'S Music
Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

Voodoo Club, Screamin Abdabz, Chaos Experience,
"Into The Valley", Trico Stadium, Redditch

Mumbo Jumbo
St Peter's Arts Centre, Malvern

Folk The System, Plus Special Guest, Jess Silk, 8Pm
Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge

Halfway To Paradise The Billy Fury Story
Te Palace Theatre, Redditch

Elephant Peel Ep Party
Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worcester

Tankus The Henge
The Marrs Bar, Worcester

The Sound Aka + The Britannia Beat
The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Saturday 23 February 2019

Screaming Dead & Friends
The Cotswold Inn, Cheltenham

Red Line Ratio
Websters Brewhouse, Stourbridge

Wingwalkers
Sadlers Brewhouse & Bar, The Lye, Stourbridge

Gunnrunner
The Express inn, Malvern

Maz Mitrenko Band
Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Sounds Of The 60'S
The Subscription Rooms, Stroud

Will Killeen
West Malvern Social Club, West Malvern

Mzleading
The Nags Head, Cinderford

Free Spirit
The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Journeyman
The Green Dragon, Malvern

Stevie Gee
Ye Olde New Inn, Bewdley

Will Killeen
West Malvern Social Club, Malvern

The Whitney Houston Live Experience
Artrix, Bromsgrove

Furlined
The Prince Albert, Stroud

Mister Wolf
Ye Olde Black Cross, Bromsgrove

The Bob Porter Project
Stroud Brewery, Stroud

Space
Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

After Dark

The Wheelhouse, Upton Upon Severn

James Gittins

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Jay & Eli

The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester

The Johnny Cash Story

The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham

Black Pears

Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern

Joshua Burnell & Band Present The Road To Horn Fair

Parabola Arts Centre, Cheltenham

Jibbafish

The Bayshill, Cheltenham

Waw Live Lounge

Worcester Arts Workshop, Worcester

Dave Onions

Cock And Magpie, Bewdley

Monkey Jam

Harry Cook Free House, Cheltenham

Rock Your Socks Off – With Meat Loud And All-Ways

Swan Theatre, Worcester

The Reflections

Droitwich Hockey Club, Droitwich

Red Hot Boogie – The Rock 'N' Roll Era

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Dodgy - 25th Anniversary Homegrown Tour

O2 Institute, Birmingham

Ruzz Guitar's Blues Revue

The Berkeley Arms, Tewkesbury

The Skids

Guildhall, Gloucester

Over The Hill

The Kingsholm Inn, Gloucester

The Shaggy Dog Raconteurs

Cross Keys Inn, Gloucester

Dance in Misery

The Pilot Inn, Gloucester

Aarons

Robinswood Hill Social Club, Gloucester

Fracture Zone

Worcester Arts Workshop Live Lounge, Worcester

Foxbite, Apathy Avenue, S K Y L Y T S, Hedgehog And The

Clementines. Welterweight.

Victory, Hereford

Chicken Switch

Golden Fleece, Hereford

Phoenix

The Spread Eagle, Hereford

Groovyhead

The Chestnut, Worcester

Trey Bailey

The Kingsford, Wolverley

Dan & King Rich

Gardeners Arms, Droitwich

The Brubeck Project

The Market Theatre, Ledbury

The Tyler Massey Trio, Amit Dattani

Elmslie House, Malvern

Dead Dads Club, Jim Smith

The Cross Keys Inn, Malvern

The Magic Of Motow

Te Palace Theatre, Redditch

English Fiddle Weekend

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Without Flight

Woodland Cottage, Redditch

Fred Zeppelin (Led Zeppelin Tribute)

The Marris Bar, Worcester

The Commandments

The River Rooms, Stourbridge

Sunday 24 February 2019

Paul Stevens

The Hare And Hounds Wollescote, Stourbridge

Al Jolsons Dog - Afternoon Gig

Joe Joe Jims, Birmingham

Female Voices Night: Abi K, Demi Marriner & Chloe Mogg

Tower Of Song, Birmingham

The Unconventionals Acoustic

The Black Star, Stourport-On-Severn

Pay The Piper

The Wharf, Stourport-On-Severn

The Follicles

Ye Olde Crown Inn, Stourport-On-Severn

The Songmen – A Capella Group

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Boogie Men (3pm)

Richmond Place Club, Hereford

Adam Higgins

Red Lion, Evesham

Woo Town Hillbillies (5:30pm)

The Chestnut, Worcester

Black Knight (5pm)

Imperial Tavern, Worcester

Melvin Hancox Band (4pm)

Prince Of Wales, Ledbury

English Fiddle Weekend

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Tuesday 26 February 2019

Knight & Spiers

The Fleece Inn, Bretforton

Wednesday 27 February 2019

Faithful City Shows Present: Heavy Heart, Sick Pins, Swan

Prince, Quentin Sauvé

Annie's At The Courtyard, Worcester

Hot Fingers With Emily Campbell, Tom 'Spats' Langham, Danny Blyth, Malcolm Sked, Emily Campbell - Singer, Much Awaited Return Of This Very Popular Band Whose Eclectic Mix Of Vintage Acoustic Music, Including The Red Hot Jazz Of 1920'S New York And Sophisticated 1930'S Swing.

Pershore Jazz Club, Pershore Town Football Club Function Room,

Lewis Clark Duo

Café René, Gloucester

Helen Lloyd...Adventurer

Conquest Theatre, Bromyard

James Andrews

The Green Dragon, Malvern

Thursday 28 February 2019

Surprise Attacks Presents: Dead Kiwis, A Werewolf, Skora

Annie's At The Courtyard, Worcester

Kent Duchaine, Leadbessie

Crown And Sceptre, Stroud

Someone Like You

The Courtyard, Hereford

What A Funk (Italy), Snog The Dog, 2Nd Self, Up Shot

Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Steve Tilston

The Old Rectifying House, Worcester

Trio Goya

Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham

George Wilson

The Tank, Gloucester

What A Funk, Snog The Dog, Second Self, Upshot

The Frog & Fiddle, Cheltenham

Tammy Down Acoustic 8:30pm

The Oil Basin Brewery, Worcester

Maefield, Poppy W.S, Dan James Griffin

Paradiddles Music Cafe Bar, Worce

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THE MARR'S BAR

FEB
MAR 2019

Tankus The Henge
Friday 22nd February



Friday February 1

Surprise Attacks presents: Steve Strong, Voronoi, Too Piste, A I W A S S
£4 in advance £6 on the door

Saturday February 2

Green Haze (Green Day tribute)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Sunday February 3

Uncover: Pink Diamond Revue, LegPuppy, White Noise Cinema, Hey Jester
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Thursday February 7

Beth Rowley, Josh Flowers
£12 in advance £15 on the door

Friday February 8

As You Were (Liam Gallagher & Oasis trib) £10 in advance £12 on the door

Thursday February 14

Limehouse Lizzy (Thin Lizzy tribute)
£14 in advance £17 on the door

Saturday February 16

The Fezz (a homage to Steely Dan)
£5 in advance £7 on the door

Friday February 22

Tankus The Henge
£12 in advance £15 on the door

Saturday February 23

Fred Zeppelin (Led Zeppelin tribute)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday March 1

UnCover: No Violet, The Jericho Racks + TBA
£6 in advance £8 on the door

Saturday March 2

Forever Queen (Queen Tribute)
£12 in advance £15 on the door

Friday March 8

The Official Receivers
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday March 9

Are You Experienced (Jimi Hendrix Tribute)
£7 in advance £9 on the door

Friday March 15

DIIO (Ronnie James Dio tribute), Black Angus (Bon Scott era AC/DC tribute)
£10 in advance £12 on the door

Saturday March 16

Ultimate Coldplay (Coldplay tribute)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday March 22

The Vibrators
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Saturday March 23

Wizards Of Oz (Ozzy Osbourne tribute), Saxonised (Saxon tribute)
£8 in advance £10 on the door

Friday March 29

Woo Fest warm up

Saturday March 30

Lynchfest: The Rocker Covers, The Straight Aces and The Escobars. DJs Ace High, DJ Unextroidaniare, DJ and Compare Big Daddy
£10 in advance

Wednesdays - Jamming night - FREE entry

Late Fridays & Saturdays - Midnight till 4am

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