

Re-calling the Stones

Manchester author **Richard Houghon** is calling in Worcester fans of the Rolling Stones to share their memories of the band - the only catch is that he's looking for eyewitness accounts of the band's performances at the **Worcester Gaumont** in 1963 - twice in October and again in December! He's collected over 500 accounts of the Stones' early performances - including at Cheltenham, Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton and Kidderminster - but Worcester's still missing from his list. And as **Mick Jagger** has turned 71 - it's likely that people who saw the Stones when they were starting out would now be of a similar age! If you also attended any of the early Beatles performances as well do contact Richard at thebeatlesinthe60s@gmail.com



New Mello Fest

Organisers of Upton **Sunshine Festival** have announced another new addition to next summer's packed list of local events. Held over the Spring Bank Holiday 27th-29th May 2016 **Mello** is set to bring back the essence of a big chilled family festival. With an eclectic mix of indie, folk, jazz and dance, Mello will broadly appeal to music lovers of all ages. Set at the iconic **Throckmorton Airfield**, the organisers spotted a gap in the Worcestershire market for a large scale festival that champions 'real' music.



The Levellers

"We feel that musically Worcestershire lacks a festival that champions 'real' music on a large scale, hence the need to create Mello. We're delighted to be holding it at the iconic Throckmorton Airfield and intend to take into account the historical values it holds when producing the festival. It really is an exciting project are we're delighted to be able to announce our first 2016 headline act The Levellers and they'll be alongside Lemar, The Blockheads, Pentangle & Electric Swing Circus. Expect many more names to be announced soon as well as a host host of local talent."

Early bird tickets are now on sale for the 3 day event and these tickets, at just £65, include camping from the Friday to the Monday. Available at mellofestival.co.uk

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Upton Fest Award

Last month we congratulated **Babajack** members **Becky Tate** and **Trevor Steger** for picking up gongs at the **British Blues Awards** - woops forgot to mention that **Upton Blues Festival** also scooped their **Festival of the Year** prize - chairman **Oliver Carpenter** said he was thrilled with the award adding that some of the 15,000 people who attended this year had told him 'it was better than Christmas'...

Charity Cash-in from Mapfest

Redditch-based charity the **Charlotte and Craig Saving Hearts Foundation** have said thanks to **Andy** and all involved with **Mappfest** - money raised from their stall at the Malvern Link Common bash have helped fund a defibrillator which has been installed at **The Cube** community centre in Albert Road North - well done to all concerned!!

Marie-Claire for Marrs Launch

Worcester-based folk band **Marie-Claire Berreen & Her Husbands** (!) say that the inspiration for songs for their latest album came from a cold week in Wales in February 2014 when they were barricaded in a remote cottage while the worst storms in 50 years raged outside. They've finished writing and recording the album back in Worcester and the launch gig will be at the **Marrs Bar** on Thursday November 28th - when they'll be hoping for better weather!

International Success For Worcester Writer

Worcester writer **Kevin Brooke** has sent more copies of **Jimmy Cricket**, his latest Young Adult novel, to Austria; his Austrian contact **Linda**, said: '*... I've spoken to the teacher who is using them and she confirms they are being used in a 'Fachschule für Sozialberufe', with Fachschule being a special, specific school for school leavers and Sozialberufe, literally meaning Social Jobs.*

'She has explained that the books will be used in her lessons "in a cross-curricular way, combining English language and reading in a foreign language plus discussing the content / the topic of the book about a troubled boy which is also relevant for our students as we are in a social college."

Black Pear Press are delighted to pass on this news from one of our local writers, further details about Kevin's book are available at: www.blackpear.net

The man with the 'licence to thrill'

Worcester loses a popular local character with the death of the self-titled **'The Black Bond'** aka **Geoffrey Noble Archer**. He was well known for his impromptu performances in an individualistic rap style, inviting his audiences to join in with his phrases. A regular at The Marrs Bar open mic with memorable raps such as *'When I Drop'* and *'Get lost in Music'*. This well dressed, dapper gentleman will be solely missed on the streets of Worcester and as *'The Black Bond'* would say *'In multicultural England'*.

