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Bewdley Business Makes it a Hatrick with opening of new international music venue



Father and daughter team, Emma Passey and Paul Winfield, owners of The Cock and Magpie and The Hop Pole, Bewdley are set to make it three in row with the opening of their new international music venue, Moonshine Room.

Moonshine Room – which will open on Tuesday March 16th – is situated above The Cock and Magpie and is set to attract some big names in jazz, blues, roots and swing alongside local up and coming talent.

A packed programme is planned with international names including blues guitarist and founder of the European Blues Association, Michael Roach; American virtuoso jazz guitarist Duck Baker and fresh from his recent tour with Judy Collins, New York singer-songwriter Kenny White. Later in May, Eva Cassidy's brother Dan Cassidy from Maryland, USA will be playing with this swing quartet, followed by blues guitarist Gary Fletcher.

Paul explains, "We want to put Bewdley on the musical map by creating a beautiful space where some of the world's best artists can perform. Following on from the success of the music nights at The Cock and Magpie it was a natural progression for us to focus on creating a venue that will attract famous names as well as supporting the wealth of talented artists in the Midlands."

Moonshine Room will open every Tuesday night and be hosted by singer-songwriter Deborah Hodgson who recently opened the big top stage at The Isle of Wight Festival alongside The Stereophonics, Will Young and Judy Collins.

Deborah said, "I sing regularly at The Cock and Magpie, so when Paul and Emma approached me to host and manage the new venue I said yes straight away. We have already booked some big names including the Dan Cassidy swing quartet on May 26th. Dan's sister, Eva Cassidy is one of my biggest inspirations and it will be a privilege to host this very special evening."

Tickets for are on sale now available at the Cock and Magpie or by calling ticket hotlines 01299 405842, 07739319371 or 07504234044.

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For further information and artist interviews please contact Zeena Lemon on 01299 832116 / 07504234044 or Deborah Hodgson on 07739319371.

Line Up:-

March 16th – Michael Roach – www.michealroachband.com – Tickets £10
MICHEAL ROACH, one of thirteen children born in Washington, D.C., USA, sings and plays guitar in an East Coast style of blues that dates back to the 1920s. After spending several years learning directly from such well known figures as John Jackson, John Cephas and Jerry Ricks, Michael has developed his own style and is now an exceptional performer. He interacts with his audience and he entertains as he plays.

Over the past 20 years, Michael has conducted numerous workshops throughout the USA and Europe. As a cultural arts performer, Michael has promoted African-American culture through the use of blues music. He has lectured for the Smithsonian Institute (USA), Oxford University (UK) and more recently at the University of Metz (France). In July 2004, he was involved in the organization of a conference held at the University of Gloucestershire (UK) called 'Overseas Blues - European Perspectives on African American Music'. The University Press of Mississippi published the papers from the conference in 2007. Michael is also the founder of the European Blues Association and serves as its Director of Development, Secretary and Newsletter Editor. He is the Director, Guitar Instructor and Vocals Tutor for the annual Blues Week 2000 - 2010 programme (a week of lectures, guitar, harmonica,

piano/keyboards and vocals tuition) at Exeter University (2000/2004) and the University of Northampton (2005/2010). Michael also presented 'Deep Blue', a three part series on blues music featured on BBC Radio 4 in March 2003.

March 23rd - Deborah Hodgson – www.debhodgson.com

DEBORAH HODGSON is a singer for the 21st Century blending a genuine hippy vibe with her combination of poignant lyrics and beautiful melodies. Her voice and music celebrate and affirm the values of love, life, beauty and freedom and are reminiscent of the bohemian days of Woodstock. Deborah's writing pays homage to the honesty and nostalgia of Laurel Canyon spiced with the mystic energy gained from her celtic, welsh roots.

March 30th – Duck Baker – www.duckbaker.com

DUCK BAKER is one of the most highly regarded fingerstyle guitarists of his generation. He is unique among jazz guitarists in that his repertoire spans the entire history of the music from ragtime through swing to modern masters like Thelonious Monk and Herbie Nichols to free improvisation. Baker's devotion to American music also encompasses more traditional forms like blues, gospel, and Appalachian music and its Scots-Irish ancestry. This catholicism has been likened to Europeans who perform the classical repertoire from renaissance through to modern music.

April 6th – Harvey Andrews - www.harveyandrews.com

Harvey Andrews is an English singer-songwriter and poet and has produced 17 successful albums singing his own songs, many of which have also been recorded by other artists. He has appeared on the Old Grey Whistle test and he collaborated on a successful musical depicting life growing up in Birmingham in the forties and fifties. "Go Play Up Your Own End" has been well received across the Midlands, especially in its latest production in 2006 featuring Jasper Carrot in a major role.