

# BRUM BEAT

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*News, Views, Gossip* ■

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*Breathe* ■

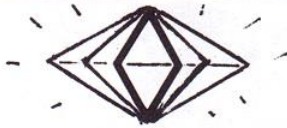
*Jonathan King* ■

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## the section with no name

Just another month on the occasionally acoustic side of musical paradise, kicks off on Saturday 1st at the Breedon Bar 'n' Border Café in Cotteridge, with some of those cajun 'n' rock rhythms from 'Life In the Bus Lane' (Special Delivery), as purveyed by those Balham Alligators. On the following evening, Euro-blues guitarist Hans Thessink is there. His latest album 'Baby Wants to Boogie' is available on the American, Flying Fish label. Cincinnati based boogie piano man, Big Joe Duskin appears at the venue on Thursday 6th. Aided and abetted by members of The Big Town Playboys, Joe's latest album titled, 'Don't Mess With The Boogie Man' is scheduled for release on the Special Delivery label, to coincide with his national tour. Stalwarts of the Cooking Vinyl label, and purveyors of acoustic/electric folkiness, The Oyster Band make their Breedon debut on the following evening. Doubtless, the evening will feature tunes from their recent albums, 'Step Outside' and 'Wide Blue Yonder'.

Over the following weekend (well almost) and commencing on Thursday 13th, proprietors Bob and Anne Moore are putting on their third 'Special Event' at the Border Café, in as many months. This time around, you can get 'down 'n' dirty', with blues riffs and rhythms. First night seeks a rare UK appearance by Joe Louis Walker. Walker is supported by a solo acoustic Kevin Brown. The following night Trevor Burton's Band take the stage. The blues special is closed by R&B big band Otis Grand and the Dance Kings.

Now into their fifth year and third incarnation, Red Shoes finally make their debut at the Breedon on Sunday 16th. Now purveying a cross over folk/ country/ rock sound, this is one local band who were made for playing in this particular venue. Wild horses dare not stand in my way, on that evening. The Hank Wangford Band offshoot, Los Pistoleros led by fiddle man Bobby Valentino, return to the Breedon on Friday 21st. Twenty four hours later, the Tex Pistols are Breedon bound. The Pistols include, former Attractions stickman Pete Thomas and ex-Rumour/Ducks Deluxe guitarist, Martin Belmont. The third weekend of the month continues with an appearance by ex-Lindisfarne frontman Alan Hull on Sunday 23rd. American country star Dan Seals, plays the Breedon on Monday

24th October. His latest US album 'Rage On' (Capitol) is enjoying major chart success across the water, and has already spawned the hit single 'Addicted'.

October at the Breedon closes out, with the promise of a distinctly Texan flavour. Joe Ely may finally make his much promised 1988 British tour, during late October. His Cotteridge appearance will be, on either Friday 28th or Saturday 29th, but you'd be advised to check the music press in the next few weeks, or ring (021) 459 6573 nearer those dates. His sizzling brand of Texas rock 'n' roll, exemplified by his current Demon album 'Lord of the Highway' will almost certainly bring down a few rafters, from above the Breedon stage. On Thursday 27th, Austin based balladeer Bobby Bridger, stops off at this local honky tonk (heaven). In a career spanning some twenty years and three studio albums, Bridger has only performed in the UK on one previous occasion. That was earlier this year, at London's Mean Fiddler. Bobby claims descendency from mountain man, Jim Bridger. Over the past ten years, Bridger has been developing a number of performance pieces, merging music with narrative. Recently he took one particular piece, 'Ballad of the West' on step further, by staging it for a summer season in the Yellowstone National Park at Old Faithful, Wyoming as a play. As an archivist of his nation's folklore — on the native Indian, and of the many peoples who settled on their land — Bridger has few equals. A musical event not to be missed.

Shropshire bluegrassers, Wrekin Havon make one of their regular Breedon appearances, on Sunday 30th October.

There are two major label tours about this month, and they hit Birmingham on consecutive nights. The Irish Centre, High Street, Digbeth features Tanita Tikaram on Wednesday 5th. Her first album 'Ancient Heart' was released in the middle of last month (or alternatively, in a few days time, as I write this). The production, and in particular the violin break on 'Family Tradition', surely broke that single chartwise. On the flip side, the sub-Vegaish 'Valentine Heart' and 'Poor Cow', did little to impress these ears, or convince me that longevity was within her grasp. The lady should not however, be denied a chance to prove me wrong. Texas songbird Nanci Griffith, filled that Digbeth venue last time around. Five months later, she moves uptown to The Hummingbird in Dale End. As a songwriter, she has few current equals. Her four piece Blue Moon Orchestra, give the sort of backdrop to her tunes, which makes her concerts, the stuff of aural ecstasy. Even though I have probably heard the

classic, 'There's A Light Beyond These Woods' a few hundred times, it never fails to wipe me away — every time. Filling large venues, without a new album to promote, is however, a whole other ball game.

These days my closest friend calls it Yuppietown. It has been known as Harborne for much longer. At the Junction Pub on the High Street, the following artists can be seen during the coming month. The five piece California based rhythm 'n' blues group, the Mighty Flyers, are there on Wednesday 5th. The club reverts to its usual Thursday night slot with, Leeds-based singer/ songwriter Jon Strong on 13th. One week later, those guitar buffs among you, should be salivating at the prospect of the duelling strings of John Renbourn and Stefan Grossman. The Outsiders, featuring Tom Martin plus other local acts close to the month's proceedings on the 27th.

Eric Bogle makes the final local appearance of his current tour, at the Red Lion Folk Club in Kings Heath on Saturday 1st. Check out his latest album 'Something of Value' on the Aussie, Larrikin label. If male/ female duos are your delight, then Graham and Eileen Pratt are at the Woodman in Kingswinford on Friday 6th, while on the same evening, Peta Webb and Pete Cooper are at the Woodman in Kingswinford on Friday 6th while on the same evening Peta Webb and Pete Cooper are at the Cambrian Wharf, Kingston Row. In conjunction with the Sandwell Arts Festival, John Atkins and his Acoustic Roots organisation, are promoting a concert at the Tividale Community and Recreation Centre on Thursday 18th, featuring that Newfoundland group, Figgy Duff. October at the Woodman, continues with Martin Carthy on the 14th, and Keith Hancock seven days later. Tony Rose plays the Long Boat, on the same evening.

I suppose at the end of the day, personal preference/ prejudice will always reveal itself. Taking you and me, 'back to Texas' on Wednesday 19th, will be that Austin based country rock/ western swing band, The Wagoners. Their Emory Gordy Jr. produced debut album, 'Stout and High' (A&M) has just been released in the UK. Stateside, their first single "I wanna know her again", enjoyed promising chart success. As part of the Route 88 country promotion, during July, the Wagoners supported those guys who are always Asleep at the Wheel, at the Mean Fiddler and other London venues. Now, us hicks in the sticks, can kick out with some swinging country steps. P.S. Oh yes, and I almost forgot — The Wagoners can be seen at the Aston University Union. See ya' next month, partners.

ARTHUR WOOD

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