

THE STOMPIES

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Sue Resuggan
6 Dellow Grove
Alvechurch
Birmingham
communications@thestompies.co.uk
07453 295065

Date: 03 /03/2018

No Stompy On Sunshine is the new album from eight piece Worcestershire ensemble, **The Stompies**. It features eleven tracks that vary from the romantic and reflective to the reassuringly thumping.

For eight years the village of Alvechurch, south of Birmingham, has been the setting for a regular feast of music with an acoustic and roots feel. On the last Friday in almost every month [Alvechurch Acoustic Roots](#) springs to life in the upstairs of the village's Social Club. Now the band that hosts this carefully curated and widely celebrated event has released its first album.

"We've all been playing music for a long time", says guitarist, songwriter and founder of **The Stompies**, **Paul Chamberlain**, "just not necessarily in the same room - or the same band".

The Stompies have their fingers in an amalgamation of musical pies. Two guitars, acoustic bass, and drums with percussion provide the pastry, while four vocals led by the melodic and harmonic **Fi Holmes** and **Sue Resuggan** offer herbs and spice. The father/daughter double act of **Keith and Leah Yendell** on melodeon and fiddle respectively give the folk flavour while songs, primarily from Paul's pen, combine the ingredients for the filling selected from a diverse larder of pop, and traditional narrative folkiness.

The album is available on CD and also in download form via the band's [Bandcamp page](#). It was produced by band guitarist **Dave Howard**. "You'll get something more than **The Stompies** captured in our live glory" he says; "we've done our best to serve the songs and the listeners' ears above all else. This isn't simply a snapshot of our monthly Acoustic Roots performances. With those we make a definite effort to mark moments. The Acoustic Roots experiences aren't ephemeral, many stay in the memory for years because of the events to which they provide a backdrop; birthdays, proposals, reunions and mournings, but they are about a point in time. This though, this is an album that we think warrants repeated listening - it's got lots of bits in it!".

Paul Chamberlain's songs include treatments of classic literature, cutting political point making, and stories of emotional journeying. Of the album's eleven tracks nine are Chamberlain creations. "He's so prolific!" says Dave. "There's no way I can keep up in terms of writing, but I don't mind that; every batch that Paul comes up with features at least one or two pieces of gorgeousness that I can get my arranging teeth into, and Paul isn't precious about them. We'll put the ones that

don't inspire us as a band back in the box and then we'll shape the ones we do like into something we can all speak through".

"He's a great collaborator too" says Sue who has ventured into co-songwriting for this first album from The Stompies. *Searching For The Headlight* is an exhortation to stop looking back at what might have been and take your chances where you can. The sentiment nicely encapsulates Sue's own move into the band: "Having spent several years singing with choirs of various natures, and as an occasional duo with bandmate Fi, I grabbed the chance to sing for the Stompies - and haven't looked back!"

Alvechurch is certainly The Stompies' geographical focal point, but drummer and percussionist **Freddie Gee** does most of his solo practising on the family farm in Knowle near Solihull, not that he needs to practice much; he plays with a couple of more rock and pop centred bands that keep the skills sharp. Freddie hasn't got the longest commute to rehearsals though. **Fi Holmes** relocated to her original home turf in Somerset where she spends much of her time working as a visual artist, using clay and other resistant materials. This hasn't stopped her travelling to the midlands to entertain the Acoustic Roots audience each month, and elsewhere when there's a welcome; "I fine tune my harmonies by singing along with rehearsal recordings on the long journeys" she says, and adds with her trademark positivity that "it makes the M5 trek a useful interlude in the day". It doesn't surprise audiences to know that her artwork, like her performances is very three-dimensional.

Bass player **Martin Salter** not only provides a foundation to The Stompies sound, he also takes to the stage in other guises when he's involved in another of his passions; acting. He's regularly involved in two productions and band rehearsals at the same time. "We're just waiting for the day when he hasn't got time to change out of his theatre costume in time to jump on stage with the bass" warns Dave, "I'm hoping it'll be around panto time; it could kickstart the next stage in our image development!". This would be no challenge to **Leah** who takes to the boards in dramas and comedies on a regular basis. In fact The Stompies is an ensemble crammed with artistic talent beyond the musical. As well as singing with a choir **Sue** acts with two theatre companies, **Dave** recently wrote and directed a political satire, **Paul** co-creates original pantomimes every other year, and in addition to her clay-work **Fi's** theatrical character parts are legendary. Meanwhile **Keith** produces beautiful and colourful pieces of stained glass art. "We should live in a commune really," says Dave, "wearing ponchos and beads. Ok, so not the ponchos. Or the beads. But yes, what we really need is a farm-based idyll for craft and creativity". It may come as no surprise to learn that this exactly what **Freddie** calls home.

"In fact", says **Paul**, "we could say that we've all been creating art for a long time, just not necessarily in the same village, or with the same artform!".

The album *No Stompy On Sunshine* is available on CD and for download at <https://thestompies.bandcamp.com/releases> or from the band at gigs. You can keep in touch with The Stompies and the delights of Alvechurch Acoustic Roots via the event Facebook page and website; www.facebook.com/Alvechurch-Acoustic-Roots and www.alvechurchacousticroots.co.uk respectively.

---ENDS---

Further Info:

- A PDF version of this Press Release is available [HERE](#)
- A WORD version of this Press Release is available [HERE](#)
- Alvechurch Acoustic Roots takes place at
Alvechurch Sports & Social Club, Radford Road, Alvechurch, B48 7NE