

## **JUPITER OWLS BIOGRAPHY**

*Jupiter Owls* play a chilled mix of Folk/Pop tinged with Americana and Country. Their bittersweet songs tell tales of bruised melancholy and heartache, inspired by artists such as James Taylor, Simon and Garfunkel and Nick Drake. Evoking the sound of the early seventies West Coast scene, their sound has been described as West Coast meets West Country.

Singer-songwriter/guitarist John Libert originally formed *Jupiter Owls* as a duo with guitarist Ryan Steele in 2013, playing local open-mic nights and then the *Sat in a Field Festival*. They spent the next year and half writing, honing and recording their songs, developing a sound of intricately woven guitars and harmonised vocals. The Frome-based band are now up to full strength with a rhythm section consisting of Kev Jefferies on bass and Kevin Reed on drums and have started to build a live following. They recently performed a full live set and interview on Radio Frome FM's *Soundcheck Sessions*.

Their first long player is due for release in April 2017. (Pre-release CD and MP3 Album available now.)

### **John Libert - Vocals, Acoustic and Electric Guitars**

John played his first gig with *The Radio Active Babies* in 1977 at the dawn of Punk. He has been a lead vocalist, guitarist, bass player and drummer in numerous bands and has played venues ranging from The Marquee Club to the Hammersmith Odeon.

In the 80's and 90's John worked as an in-house studio engineer/producer for both *Off Beat Music* and *IZM/Beethoven Street Studios*, involved in a diverse range of projects from *Seal* to traditional Tibetan folk music; ambient wind harp to *Transvision Vamp*.

John left the music industry in the late 90's, returning to university to study Landscape Architecture. Following a serious illness in 2007 he moved from London to Somerset, re-kindling his love for guitar and song-writing, drawing from his very earliest influences – James Taylor, Simon and Garfunkel, Lightning Hopkins, Roy Orbison, Nick Drake and Dylan Thomas.

### **Ryan Steele - Electric and Acoustic Guitars, Slide Guitar, Mandolin, Backing Vocals**

Ryan spent his early years playing, recording and gigging with bands in London and the Midlands, and could often be seen sporting a sharp tuxedo whilst balancing the sound for top function bands at the Dorchester and Grosvenor House Hotels in London. Along the way he has performed with Jools Holland (on one of Ryan's own songs) and been invited to join Ozzy Osborne's management team (choosing to decline the offer when Ozzy bit the bat's head off!) Ryan's favourite gear is an American Deluxe Stratocaster through a Fender 65 Deluxe Reverb amp, in his words: "Pure tone."

### **Kev Jefferies - Bass Guitar**

Born and bred in Nunney, Somerset, Kev can trace his lineage back the infamous 'Hanging Judge', Judge Jefferies (which may explain his fascination with Judge Judy and his judgemental outlook on life in general!) As a multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and producer, his past and present projects include lead guitarist in Frome covers band *Best Before Midnight*, founder member of and writer for *Stem Ginger and the Heartrenders*, and a brief spell as guitarist with *The Annilee Ford Band*. His influences range from Fairport Convention to Sixx AM via Joe Satriani and Kodaline. Kev views music as a competitive sport.

### **Kevin Reed - Drums and Percussion**

Kevin started playing drums in *The Letters* on the crest of the UK New Wave Scene and had a hit in Japan. His CV features many bands and multiple genres. Most recently he has tended towards jazz and New Orleans style funk but he loves roots and dance music of all types, the Rolling Stones, Wilco, Massive Attack and 1960's Miles Davis. Kevin recently played a comeback tour in Japan with *The Letters*.

Praise for recent gigs:

*'Headlining are Jupiter Owls – a Bath/Frome-based group. Their music is absolutely beautiful – check it out'*

Cat Gone Crazy Music, Feb 2017

*'Check out the mighty Jupiter Owls, this month's headliners - here's a live version of 'Cape Cornwall' - hugely excited to welcome the band for their headline spot!'*

Victoria Hall Acoustic Sessions, Feb 2017

*'Thanks fellas - you sounded superb!'*

Bath Brew House, March 2017

*'The Jupiter Owls were great, playing all their own music. Could have listened all evening. Need them back again sometime...'*

Lazy Sunday Afternoon, March 2017