

# BOROUGH BLUES

April 2010 Page 1

## “YOUR NEWSLETTER!”

All members should now be receiving the newsletter by email, apart from those that have no email address who will soon receive them the old-fashioned way by post! We would appreciate it if any members receiving a newsletter by post could advise us if they actually do have an email address, so that we can save a few more trees (and stamps!) I hope the new delivery methods will work, if any members are not receiving newsletters or are unable to read them, please let us know. Thank you.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Introducing “Blue Traffic”



We are pleased to welcome Blue Traffic back to the Borough Blues Club; it seems far too long since they were here last!

Dave Williams is widely regarded as one of the finest blues/rock guitarists in Wales, and is well supported by Wayne Jones on bass guitar and Meirion Sampson on drums.



Blue Traffic are influenced by the likes of Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Eric Clapton and Buddy Guy, and aim to sound like an up-to-date version of Cream!

<http://www.bluetraffic.co.uk/>

## Next Month at the BBC – 1<sup>st</sup> May “Khalif Wailin’ Walter”



Khalif “Wailin’” Walter continues to tear up stages in Chicago & throughout Europe with his unique style of boogie Blues.

This born and bred Chicagoan is a guitarist, singer, bandleader, and songwriter carrying the

torch as one of the new generation of that famed Blues Mecca's musicians. He has accumulated a mountain of reviews in the U.S., Canada, and Europe lauding both his 2008 CD “Let Me Say That Again” and his electrifying live show. Khalif “Wailin’” Walter’s stormy guitar work and brash New Orleans style vocals, generate the band’s traditional down-home sound, reminiscent of greats like Albert King, Freddie King, and Albert Collins. Fusing contemporary style and innovative original arrangements with a firm grasp of the Chicago Blues roots and tradition, Khalif “Wailin’” Walter delivers foot-stomping Blues that burns the house to the ground.

Khalif “Wailin’” Walter has performed in the Chicago Blues Festival in 2001, 2003, and 2007. In 2008 he toured the EU and headlined festivals in U.K., Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, Holland, Belgium, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. Following completion of his studies in Jazz performance at Chicago’s Roosevelt University, he was a 4 year member of the Lonnie Brooks Blues Band and studied under the tutelage of his Uncle and mentor Blues great Carl Weathersby. Khalif has appeared on stage with such Blues giants as Grammy Winner Taj Mahal, Grammy Winner Otis Rush, The Jimmy Vaughan Band, The Buddy Guy Band, Junior Wells, Bernard Allison, Pinetop Perkins, Larry McCray, Curtis Salgado, and Louisiana Red, to drop just a few names.

This is the first international artist to appear at the blues club this year following on from Mick Pini and Ricardo Massini. He is also the first American to set foot on our stage and is sure to attract a healthy crowd. Tickets are on sale from 3<sup>rd</sup> April and we are hoping to get tickets on sale online for this and future gigs. Hopefully this will result in a sell-out so please, to avoid disappointment, get your tickets early!

<http://www.myspace.com/khalifwailinwalter>

## FORTHCOMING GIG NIGHT’S

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> May        | Khalif Wailin’ Walter  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> June       | Debbie Lear Blues Band |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> July       | The Healers            |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> August     | The Fugitives          |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> September | TBA                    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> October    | TBA                    |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> November   | The Worried Men        |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> December  | Eddie Martin Trio      |

## Gig Review – 6<sup>th</sup> March "Ted Crook's Blues highway"

Gig review: Adrian Bold, Photos: Steve Savidge



"It's a more old fashioned kind of blues" said one observer as Ted Crook and the Blues Highway strutted their stuff at the Borough Blues Club March Gig. Another thought that this was a "band for listening to" perhaps rather than to be amazed at the pyrotechnics of some acts – though some people did find time to dance.

Ted Crooks with his distinctive blues voice and howling harp harks back to the era when blues was becoming electric and goes through into the 1950's. The style is distinctly more laid back than modern rocky electric blues and, though many of the songs would be recognisable as modern standards, they were played in a perhaps more historically authentic manner. "Walkin' by myself" was definitely more Jimmy Rogers than Gary Moore and the laid back version of "Kansas City" was much less frenetic than many modern versions. Ted's version of "I got my Mojo working" was clearly in the Muddy Water's style.

The acoustic balance is such that Ted's voice and harp stand out above the intricate platform provided by the Blues Highway. Neither is the group too loud and, if anything, sometimes tended to lack a little depth in their sound when the harmonica was not being blown. However, that did not detract from the silky skills of the giant "Tiny" Phillips on guitar. The groups sound is deceptively simple and relies heavily on Tiny's intricate guitar riffs and vamped and sliding



chord patterns. Handling riff-based blues, shuffle and boogie-woogie with consummate ease Tiny stitches the band together in the space between harmonica, bass and drums with a grace that owes much to jazz influences – and, though almost never lightening fast or overly aggressive, has a touch that belies his size. "Stiff" on the bass, with pork pie hat, woolly scarf, blue chequered suit and sneakers is a colourful character and solid citizen on bass and vocals. And "Doc" on percussion is just about the most controlled drummer to adorn the stage at Borough Blues. Not loud and intrusive Doc accented and complemented the musical style of the Blues Highway perfectly – adding backing vocals and a fine solo version of "Mean mis-treater". The Blues Highway moved smoothly through their set, a very compact unit who are at home with a style which differentiates them from many other performers.



An altogether accomplished and polished performance was appreciated by an enthusiastic audience who responded warmly and politely rather than in the more raucous fashion given to more explosive acts. However, at the end of the night it was clear that most people thoroughly enjoyed the show and will look forward to the return of Ted Crook's Blues Highway.

<http://www.virgilandtheaccelerators.com/>

### Club News

Our **AGM** is taking place in the Rugby Club at **7pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April**. It will be followed by our usual Monday night workshop, which is a blatant attempt on our part to ensure we have at least some general members present! Please get yourself along there if you can. We could certainly do with some more help and/or ideas and would welcome with open arms anyone who felt able to contribute!

Also, it is that time of year when membership is due for renewal, prices are the same as last year, £5 per member or £8/couple.

*That's all folks*