

BOROUGH BLUES

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"YOUR NEWSLETTER!"

Here we are, another month, another newsletter. After a long hard winter, spring is here, and with a spring in our step we are looking forward to the rest of the year at the Borough Blues Club. Not only do we have some great bands lined up for gig-nights, but we have our all-day summer festival on 19th June - details further down the page.

1st May - Introducing "Khalif Wailin' Walter"



Khalif "Wailin' Walter" was born and bred in Chicago USA, and is the first American ever to have graced our stage. We have been

looking forward to this gig for some time and are assured this guy is worth waiting for! Expect to hear influences from Otis Rush, Albert King, Albert Collins, and Khalif's Uncle Carl Weathersby. Khalif has also been band leader for BB King's daughter, Shirley!

This will be first international artist to appear at the blues club this year following on from Mick Pini and Ricardo Massini who have appeared here in the past.

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

Next Month at the BBC - 5th June "Debbie Lear Blues Band"

Debbie Lear appeared at the Borough Blues Club at our first ever Christmas Party - in 2005, and that was a sell-out!



The fact that she has not been back since is almost certainly an oversight on our part, but is probably due to the fact that as she lives so locally, and we therefore tend to see her performances elsewhere, for example at Pontypool Jazz Festival, where she is extremely popular.

However, we thought it was about time you the members were able to welcome her back to the club - so here she is! She has considerable local support so expect the demand for tickets to be quite high, get yours in advance if you want to make sure!

According to her MySpace site (link below) she aspires to play music deeply rooted within the blues and incorporating as many different grooves as they can muster. Most of the band have been playing together, as well as with many other local musicians, for at least a decade on the South Wales music circuit. Also on the site are also a couple of excellent tracks to listen to, check it out!

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

FORTHCOMING GIG NIGHT'S

5 th June	Debbie Lear Blues Band
3 rd July	The Healers
7 th August	The Fugitives
11 th September	TBA
2 nd October	TBA
6 th November	The Worried Men
11 th December	Eddie Martin Trio

Borough Blues Club "Blues Festival 2010"

Our third annual blues festival will take place on Saturday 19th June, here at New Panteg. In 2008 it was gloriously sunny and we all had an excellent time - last year we were not so fortunate and heavy rain meant that we were forced to hold it inside the club. This of course meant the turn-out was much lower, but we have not been put off, we are back again bigger and better than ever. This year we are hoping of course to be back outside, and we have an excellent line-up headed by the outstanding "Red Eyed Fly".

Full Line-up

Borough Blues Workshop Band
Call Me Albert
Wishful Drinking
Red Eyed Fly
Still Got The Blues

The first band will be on at 2pm and we should anticipate finishing around 8.30pm. Family tickets will be available; we will have plenty of seating outdoors or bring your picnic blankets!

Gig Review – 3rd April "Blue Traffic"

Gig review: Adrian Bold, Photos: Adrian Powell



It's hard to know what to say really! When Blue Traffic appeared at a Borough Blues Club gig almost exactly three years ago they provided a

performance which evoked superlatives hard to top. They were so good that they were invited to play the following year's mini Festival and were excellent. And don't get me wrong, this is a fantastic band that put on a superb show on Saturday night – it is just that words fail and, in some respects, one would have expected a band of this level of talent to have progressed to the point at which we would not be able to afford to pay them to appear.

Dave Williams is a hugely talented rock blues guitarist with skills probably approaching the level of some of the greats. His fluency, effortless precision, lightening speed, delicate touch and gutsy feel eclipse the talents of vast hordes of ordinary mortal guitarists - and it's not just that he can play, he delivers songs with hard-edged, rocky vocals - brilliantly supported by the superb Wayne Jones on bass and by the effervescent Meirion Simpson on drums - to build very tight and hard driving music. OK it was loud and mostly "in your face" - too much for some people - but the



jaw-dropping guitar work and the synergy of the band members were spell binding at times.

From the opening, silky smooth "Stop me now" (Robert Johnson) through a beautiful and engaging version of "Little Wing" (Jimi Hendrix) to "Crossroads" (Again Robert Johnson) the band performed superbly. They brought new life with an original

version of "Stormy Monday" quite different to the Allman Brothers version with Dave Williams "scat-singing" over the whole guitar solo. They also went "Barefootin'" (Robert Parker), "Down to the Doctors" (Dr. Feelgood) before bringing the evening to a close with Hendrix's "(Let me stand next to your) Fire" with loud cries of "Encore!" (Actually it was shouts of "more" - after all it is a blues club)

Blue Traffic do not seem to do much original material and there is not much showiness about them. They just get on with the music and with great interpretations of the music of Hendrix, Clapton and SRV and the like. One cannot help but think that sooner or later they should be "discovered" and move to higher profile venues. Of course the longer they don't the better chance we have to enjoy them at the BBC along with fine crowds like that which turned up on Saturday night! It's enough to take your blues away - or not, as the case may be!!

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

Club News

Our **AGM** took place in the Rugby Club on 12th April. We had a reasonable attendance as we rather craftily held it on a workshop night so that we were guaranteed at least some people would be there!

The outcome of the AGM is that the committee will remain unchanged, although Dave Lewis has asked to be relinquished of the band booking duties that he has undertaken since the club burst onto the scene in 2005. Dave will continue to serve the committee both in a general role and as co-ordinator of the Monday night workshops that are proving to be ever-popular. Looking forward the band-booking will likely be carried out by Dave Leek, so he is the chap to see with any suggestions for bands you would like brought to the club.

The other burning issue is membership renewal. Yes, it is that time of year again! Prices have been held again the same as last year, £5 per member or £8/couple. Membership currently entitles you to discounted tickets on gig nights, and occasionally we arrange subsidised trips, for example to the blues festival at Upton-upon-Severn, thus making membership excellent value. PLUS... wait for it... As a member you can get this excellent newsletter emailed directly to your very own computer!!

That's all folks