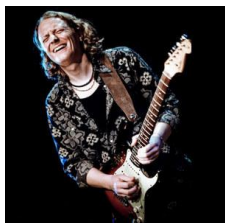


# BOROUGH BLUES

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## Borough Blues Club

*The times... they are a changin'*



Interesting times at the BBC, we have secured our first major act to appear here! On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December we will be presenting one of the top 10 British blues artists of all time (according to Guitar & Bass magazine), currently

based in the states but appearing at the Borough Blues Club as part of a UK tour. This will be an extra gig, in addition to our regular December slot. Tickets will be £15 (£13 for members) and will be available *to members only* at the September gig, and on general sale the week after that. When they are gone they are gone, so make sure you don't miss out on this chance to see a huge international blues act right here in our intimate little club.

We are staging some other notable acts this year. For next month's anniversary gig we have Norman Beaker (See below), and on 11<sup>th</sup> December Eddie Martin will be the star of our Christmas party. Tickets for both of these events will be £10 (£8 for members). At these prices we should just about break even provided place is reasonably full, so it is a bit of a trial by fire to see if we can afford to attract some more big names next year!

Additionally, from October, regular gigs will be priced at £5 for members, £7 for non-members. We are of course hoping that the £2 difference in admission price will encourage more people to become members! Yearly membership, which is well over-due if you haven't renewed yet, remains at £5 per person, or £8 per couple.

## 7<sup>th</sup> August - Introducing "The Fugitives"



Band Members... Gary Shag - Drums, Master Stephen (Pictured left) - Guitar, Ferret Stevie J - Guitar, The Mighty Boosh - Bass, Justin Holly - Harp and vocals.

Their website is very difficult to find on Google but there is a link below. Well worth a visit for its humorous content!

<http://fugitives.weebly.com/>

## FORTHCOMING GIG NIGHT'S

- 11<sup>th</sup> Sept Norman Beaker Band £10/£8  
One of Britain's best and most original blues bands. Backing band for Chris Farlowe
- 2<sup>nd</sup> October Luke Doherty Band £7/£5  
New band featuring Luke's exceptional guitar talent and Paul Morgan of Mango Crow
- 6<sup>th</sup> November The Worried Men £7/£5  
"Think of Thorogood, Gary Moore, and Wilko Johnson. These boys can show 'em all a clean pair of heels" - **British Blues Connection**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> December Matt Schofield £15/£13  
"The best blues guitarist from any country in decades." (**The Los Angeles Daily News**)
- 11<sup>th</sup> December Eddie Martin Trio £10/£8  
"One of the UK's most dynamic performers, not to be missed" **Blues Revue USA**

## Next Month at the BBC - 11<sup>th</sup> Sept "Norman Beaker Band"

Guitarist - singer - songwriter - producer, Norman leads a five piece outfit reckoned to be one of Britain's best and most original blues bands; their legendary live performances played with a lot of emotion, a lot of excitement but also with a lot of humour.



Based in the UK in Stockport, near Manchester, they regularly appear on radio and television, play all over Europe and make records. Currently doubling as Chris Farlowe's Band, they are on tour in the UK and throughout Europe this year. They have also been chosen by Van Morrison to appear as Special Guests on his current UK tour.

Other artists they have worked with over the years reads like a 'Who's Who' of Rock and R'n'B and include: Chuck Berry, Jack Bruce, Lowell Fulson, Peter Green, Buddy Guy, Paul Jones, BB King, Alexis Korner, Jimmy Page, Robert Plant... the list is endless.

<http://www.simplyws.co.uk/normanbeaker/>

## Gig Review - 3<sup>rd</sup> July "The Healers"

Gig review: Adrian Bold, Photos: Marc Ackril-Smith

It was just another Saturday night at the Borough Blues Club with the audience expecting good music as usual - but what we got was quite a revelation from a band who



had not visited the club before - and a special evening from a very talented group of men.

The Healers hail from the West Midlands and have huge experience in R&B, soul and blues performance having appeared with a succession of high profile artistes over many years.

They are led by the very talented Terry Reep on guitar and vocals. Now Terry will forgive me if I say, affectionately, that with his long hair and glasses together with the Midlands accent and coloured shirt, he reminded me of both John Lennon and Jasper Carrot - which is creditable, except I was expecting, at some point, to hear a blues cover of "Funky Moped".

Terry plays excellent guitar in a number of blues styles, swapping occasionally to play slide - which he claimed to be learning - but seemed to have a good grip on - if that is not illogical.



He was superbly supported on bass by long time musical partner Tim Charnock, who provided the solid platform necessary in a 3-piece together with "Curly" McVicar on drums. Now "Curly", so called because he is completely bald had only recently joined the band, replacing former drummer Jon Aymes. "Curly" had played for well known Midlands band "Soul Survivor" for 20 years or so, becoming available when the band split. In my opinion (as a guitarist) it is probably without

exaggeration to say that he is the best drummer we have ever had in four years at Borough Blues, a real pleasure to listen to and watch - and contributing to the overall very tight sound of an excellent trio.



The band opened with "Black Magic Woman" and then produced a variety of songs and styles including the well known "Every day I have the blues", "Dust my broom" (Elmore James) and "The thrill is gone" (BB King) but also less well known numbers such as "Conductor" (Tony Joe White), "Sweet Li'l Angel" (BB King) and a couple of their own compositions including a very funky number called "Too hot to handle". However, a bluesy version of "People get ready" (Curtis Mayfield) was the highlight of the set and brought the house down.

The band was clearly popular and despite a couple on encores, the club did not want them to stop playing. This was a real treat of an evening and I am sure that it will not be long before we see the Healers at the Borough Blues again.

## BLUES ACROSS THE SEA (Part 1)

Little Dave Lewis' & Johnny 'Guitar' Dixon's great adventure! The intension is to serialise this in the newsletter, so we'll see how it goes! It will be also available on the website!

*Well here goes.* It all started around two years ago after two friends, Dave Lewis and John Dixon found themselves young (er, well not that young!) free, and certainly single, and dare I say it... still fairly good looking!

It was decided one night, over a pint of 'Reverend James', or some such delightful brew, that we would embark on a 'Blues Adventure' of some sort. The expense side of it was not really an issue, so after some deliberation (about 3 mins worth!) we decided on a trip to the good 'ol south of the USA, down to New Orleans in the state of Louisiana.

We had heard from an old and long time friend of JD's... none other than Mr Bob Lynch, that down in the 'Big Easy' a damn good time could be had by all who loved the blues (or indeed jazz), hot weather, and of course that lovely southern cookin'!

Every year a music Heritage Festival is held in New Orleans. This is a Jazz / Blues / Gospel Fest, more or less in equal doses, so there's something for everyone! The festival this year was held over two four day weekends. We decided to take the second weekend, leaving the UK on Weds April 28<sup>th</sup>, returning on Thurs May 6<sup>th</sup>. This would include the second weekend of the festival, giving us eight days away.

So that was it...the spell was cast, the decision was made, and it was off to the travel agents to 'bend' the flexible friends.

After three (yes three!) hours of phone calls, deliberations and permutations of flight plans to hotel bookings, it was eventually all sorted. Moral....always book well in advance!

But now came the waiting....our cold weather, and of course, having to go to work as well!

I WANT TO GO NOW.....THIS MINUTE! was the screaming inside our heads....but of course, as they say (whoever 'they' are!) everything comes to those who wait. *(to be continued!)*

*That's all folks*