

BOROUGH BLUES

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First on the agenda, We would really like to wish all of our members and guests a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**.

We have had a great 2011, the best acts of the year for me by far where Johnny Nedd, Marcus Bonfanti and Buddy Whittington, but Chantel McGregor and Tommy Allen where also pretty damn good! we are hoping for another exiting year next year as well, having already booked the likes of King King, Danny Bryant, and Marcus Bonfanti for regular gig-nights, we have recently secured Chantel McGregor for an extra gig on Friday February 17th. Our program for next year really does look like a "Who's who" of the British blues scene!

This Month at the BBC – 10th December **"Dave Arcari" plus "Ragtime Ewan"**

SLIDE guitarist & songwriter Dave Arcari's sounds owe as much to trash country and rockabilly as they do pre-war Delta blues and have been showcased via six internationally-acclaimed solo CD releases.



Dave Arcari's festival appearances include Glastonbury, Peer Festival (Belgium), BluesAlive (Czech Republic & Poland shows), and The Great British R&B Festival. He has also played industry showcases at the North by North East (NxNE) music festival in Toronto, Canada and he was a finalist the UK Indy Music Awards reaching the top four in his category (best male solo artist).

With more than 100 UK dates a year plus regular shows in Finland, Estonia, France, Germany, Belgium, Poland and Canada, Arcari is one of the hardest gigging live artists on the circuit. A series of shows with folks including Steve Earle, Alabama 3, Seasick Steve and Jon Spencer along with his relentless UK and European tour schedule have established Arcari



as a formidable international solo performer who is fast building a media reputation as a 'hell-raising National guitar madman'.

<http://www.davearcari.com>

As a new feature this month, we are offering a support act, the first of which will be "Ragtime Ewan". By his own admission he sounds like "A strangled cat singing into a tin can with lovely fingerpicked guitar accompaniment"

Next Month at the BBC – 7th January 2012 **"Jay Tamkin Band"**

Whilst Jay Tamkin is a guitarist and multi instrumentalist grounded in the blues, he has got the song writing ability and musical chops to fulfil his huge potential in a very contemporary way. Classic Rock magazine commented on his 'instinctive guitar mangling' and his 'hip bucking grooves'. For make no mistake Jay Tamkin may be an up and coming rock/blues guitarist of the highest order but at heart he remains a fiercely independent musical spirit but firmly grounded in the blues.



Influenced on the blues side by SRV, Walter Trout and Albert and Freddie King, he cites Steely Dan's Donald Fagen as being equally important influence on the jazz side. Jay was further inspired by Paul Jones's BBC 2 Blues show before finding his musical conduits in the shape of Popa Chubby and Buddy Whittington. Significantly perhaps, he's already managed to play with both of his heroes.

In an era when guitar heroes have made a strong comeback, Jay Tamkin isn't about to make his pitch solely as a guitarist. Rather it's his rich musical persona that marks his out as unique. For while his restless imagination may push him into variety of styles via some fiery notes and melodic grooves, JT is treading his own path. Indeed as his first album title suggests he's just about 'Sorted'.

<http://www.jaytamkinband.com>

GIG REVIEW: The Healers **Gig Review: Adrian Bold, Photos: Steve Savidge** **12th November 2011**

Things did not go too well in the first half of The Healers return visit to Borough Blues as the band were plagued with a series of difficulties early in their performance. From

the outset Terry Reep, on guitar and vocals was having trouble with varying volume on his guitar amplifier which caused him to concentrate on solving that issue rather than entertaining the crowd. Phil Potter, who was deputising for usual bassist Tim Charnock, and had only had a couple of practice sessions, was too loud which meant that the P.A system was unable to overcome the band's volume and the vocals could not be heard properly. This also affected the whole balance of the band since



the lead guitar did not stand out much during the first set.

Unaffected by much of this, the shaven-headed

"Curly" MacVicar on drums was very busy and produced a very funky backbeat. (Presumably the "Curly" nickname referred to an earlier time in his life when he had hair on his head – or it referred to other hair on his body! Or perhaps it was just "tongue in cheek")

This band are very experienced with a great pedigree in the music business so they battled on through the first set and, having had chance of a "sort out" during the break, things got better when the second set got underway. The Healers produced an eclectic mix of covers with a couple of original songs – like



the self-penned "*Clean-up Man*". Terry Reep is a three-fingered (rather than four fingered) wizard on the guitar and produced some very clever guitar solos. He mixed it up with occasional forays on slide guitar and gave a creditable vocal performance. With numbers like "*Bad to the Bone*" (George Thorogood and the Destroyers); "*As the Crow Flies*" (Tony Joe White) and "*People Get Ready*" (Curtis Mayfield) the band won the audience round and then left them singing with Stevie Wonder's "*Superstition*"; BB King's "*Every day I have the blues*" and Chuck Berry's "*Johnny B Goode*".

So, not the best start to a Borough Blues Club night but the music improved markedly after the raffle and most people went home happy!

FORTHCOMING GIG'S

- 10th December Dave Arcari £7/£5
"Plays like he got his skin turned inside out, he's a real down deep player and a soul man"
- 7th Jan 2012 Jay Tamkin Band £7/£5
The long awaited return of this very very talented musician, who amazingly can play a guitar and keyboard simultaneously...
- 4th February Doctors Orders £7/£5
Very well received on their first appearance at the club way back in 2007. Excellent guitar from Jon Bridger
- 17th February Chantel McGregor
An excellent 2011 debut from the very endearing Chantel, fuelled by strong demand from the members, has ensured a rapid return to the club for the Bradford lass.
- 3rd March King King
"Softly softly" is not a maxim that King King are familiar with. Since surging into life two years ago they have barely stopped for breath, and their electrifying sound and scorching live shows have generated more of a thunderous roar than a buzz.
- 7th April Danny Bryants Red-Eye Band
First hailed as a 'young guitar prodigy' Danny has paid his dues in the last decade clocking up endless miles and approximately two thousand shows around the world.
- 5th May Matt Taylor
Matt is currently working on a new album due to be released March 2012 so a timely first appearance for this well established guitarist.
- 2nd June Marcus Bonfanti
According to many who witnessed his festival night performance this year, the best this club has ever seen bar none. Absolutely outstanding vocals and so much energy!

Borough Blues News

If there is a member out there that has always had a secret yearning to be a "Music Journalist" then please get in touch as we would gladly welcome anybody interested in writing a gig review for us on a one off or occasional basis!

Please visit www.boroughblues.com to check out club and gig information. Additionally, you can buy tickets for all gigs online at wegottickets.com.

We would like to thank you for your on-going feedback and suggestions. We are here to provide the sort of gigs that YOU want to see, staged in the way that you want to see them! Come and chat with us on gig-nights or email us at feedback@boroughblues.com

That's all Folks