

BOROUGH BLUES

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This Month at the BBC – 2nd March 2013 “Chantel McGregor”



Much anticipated return of the ever-popular Bradford lass to the Borough Blues Club once again.

Receiving her first (half size) guitar at the age of three, beginning lessons aged seven, and a year later passing a Rockschool grade, Chantel McGregor was on the path to becoming a six-string maestro from the start. “Young Artist of the year” at the British Blues Awards 2011, and she followed that with “Female Vocalist of the year” in 2012.

We anticipate that the club should be filled to capacity so please call and reserve your tickets!

Next Month at the BBC – 6th April 2013 “Laurence Jones Band” by Liz Aiken



The Laurence Jones Band, visiting Borough Blues on 6th April, is a young trio with Laurence on guitar and vocals. They may be young but they have a confident maturity to their playing as seen at the recent performance on the Centre Stage at Skegness Rock and Blues Weekend which is not surprising as they

recently won the Northwest regional heat of New Brunswick Battle of The Bands. And from their Skegness performance they must be serious contenders to win in London on 26th March and make the trip to this year’s Canadian Blues Festival. They play some really good blues with a funky edge, and Laurence has a good stage presence ensuring the audience warm to him and the band. Luke Dolan on drums leads a rear guard action adding textures and backing vocals with Pete Rycroft on bass reinforcing the rhythm section

giving Laurence the perfect sounding board for showcasing his guitar skills and accomplished vocals. The majority of the set is self-penned and the sales of CD’s at Skegness confirmed this band was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by the crowd, many catching up with this new talent for the first time. His biography found on the bands web site states that he plays a blend of Blues and Rock with a groovy and catchy modern edge. Laurence began playing the classical guitar at the age of 8 and has gone on to achieve grade 8 distinction. In 2006 he started to play the electric guitar and was influenced by Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Tony Mcphee, B.B King, Gary More and Albert Collins.

‘Get ready to Rock Magazine’ - gave the album a 5/5***** rating “Laurence Jones is a wise musical head on young shoulders and ‘Thunder in the Sky’ is an excellent start to a very promising career and worth five stars”.

‘Classic Rock magazine’ quoted Laurence as “Blues Rocks youngest Talent” and was featured on the “Blues Fury” C.D along with Joe Bonamassa, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Popa Chubby and many more.

Classic Rock Magazine “Laurence Jones is head boy of the new blues breed”

<http://www.laurencejonesmusic.com>

GIG REVIEW: Billy Walton Band Gig Review and photos: Liz Aiken, 2nd Feb 2013

‘Billy Walton Band’, from U.S.A. delivering a funky, rocky and lively sound that at times stretched the concept that they were a blues band but they certainly entertained from the off. The buzz of excitement at the Club grew and everyone was having fun. The bands style was music with plenty of meat to beef it up; due to the musicality and superb timing of all the members of the group. The trio supporting the front-man, the charismatic Billy Walton (lead guitar and vocals) was Johnny d’Angelo (Drums), playing with maturity beyond his years, with the addition of William Paris’s strong Bass playing completing the rhythm section which formed an immense foundation for the band to build on. The addition of a saxophone delivered with



style by talented Richie Taz, set the band apart, lifting many of the numbers above ordinary and preventing the band from becoming just another power trio. The focus and energy of the band was delivered by Billy who has a huge personality which Borough Blues instantly warmed to as he progressed through a barn-storming set. His guitar skills reflect that he has been plying his trade in front of audiences since the age of fifteen; he combines this with warm vocals that create a whole sound.

Billy does use gadgetry, unlike our last American visitor Buddy Whittington, who is renowned for using no pedals, but what Billy did with was use them with great skill to add to the sound and not to dwarf the musicality of the rest of the band. This was demonstrated when the band played 'Better The Devil You Know', so that a haunting vocal sound was created, which was simply wicked. The Billy Walton Band is no power group full of egos. Billy does not do unnecessary and overextended lead breaks. They are simply four musicians enjoying each other's company, having a good time and making each instrument shine and blend, creating a full sound, reminiscent of a jam session of the highest order. During the set they showcased a number of songs from their latest CD 'Crank It Up', they definitely did crank up the sound, the covers they chose were a little bit different with clever rearrangements as demonstrated on their take of Henry Mancini's, 'Peter Gunn', showing how versatile the band was. Part of the act which encouraged audience participation was 'Touring the World' via rock n' roll cities, predominately U.S.A.; with the crowd prompting the band with suggested cities. This was very entertaining once again reinforcing the versatility of the band. The interplay between the lead guitar and sax was top-drawer, allowing the sax to shine through and creating a lovely warm sound. A great solo delivered by Billy brought a finish to a great night out. There is no doubt that



Billy Walton is a stylish musician with loads of warm personality that the audience appreciated as the band delivered a rip-roaring set. The people would have been happy if they played on and on but the set all too quickly came to a close. This was the band's first visit to Wales and I am positive it will not be the last.

FORTHCOMING GIG's

- 2nd Mar Chantel McGregor £12/£10
Should sell out as she is consistently the act most requested to return to the club! There are still tickets but best to ring and reserve!
- 6th April Laurence Jones Band £7/£5
A blend of Blues and Rock with a groovy and catchy modern edge. Laurence released his first professional album "Thunder In The Sky" in June 2012.
- 11th May Giles Robson & the Dirty Aces
- 1st June Tres Hombres
- 6th July FESTIVAL + The Idle Hands
- 3rd August DSW
- 7th Sept The Motives feat Matt Taylor
- 5th October Willie and the Bandits
- 2nd Nov Tommy Allen Band
- 14th Dec Danny Bryant's Redeye Band

Borough Blues News

Our **AGM** is on 8th April 2013, 7pm at the RFC. We would really like anybody who is interested to come along and hear see how we run things. Any motions or nominations for the committee should be submitted to the secretary in writing by 1st April. Hope to see you there!

Borough Blues is now on **Facebook**. To be kept up-to-date with all the club's news and events... *become a friend on facebook:*

<https://www.facebook.com/boroughblues.club.1>

This is a way that you can promote the club so that we sell more tickets, keeping costs down and you never know even greater discounts for members and visitors!

It would really help the club if every time you see a posting from Borough Blues *share* it. This improves our presence on the web so that people browsing for Blues in South Wales will be directed to our club first, by the magic of search engines such as Google, Yahoo etc...

A click only takes a second but will have a lasting effect on the Borough Blues Club so that we can keep bringing great music to Panteg.

That's all Folks...

Borough Blues Club: Tickets - **01633 483238**

More info at: www.boroughblues.com