

HEBDEN BRIDGE BLUES FESTIVAL 2013

Lancashire Blues Archive goes to Hebden Bridge by Rosy Greer

Although Hebden Bridge is in West Yorkshire it's a festival I wouldn't miss. Now in its third year and winner of the 'Best British Blues Festival' at the British Blues Awards 2012, the festival has been nominated yet again for 2013.

Friday 24th May

Arrival at the campsite was a bit of a traumatic experience ... making the discovery that I'd forgotten to pack the poles...Whoops! Never mind, my husband said we probably needed a new tent anyway ... so that's what we got!!!

Our group of fellow revellers, on the small but select campsite up on the tops .. headed down to town for the first night of this great festival in Hebden Bridge. The main stage was held in the Hope Baptist Chapel .. which surprisingly provided a unique ambiance ... pews for seating, the pulpit sitting behind the stage ... and a great bar at the back!!! The chapel even had their own beer mats!!

The first artist to take the stage and open the festival was [Blues Boy Dan Owen](http://bluesboydanowen.com/). This young man has had a roller coaster of a year, having played at Newark Blues Festival last year, a video taken at this time went viral and within a couple of weeks he had over 400,000 hits. Seen by Mick Fleetwood, Dan has been taken under the wing of this great man. He is supporting ZZ Top on tour and is playing at Glastonbury this year and has also been nominated in the British Blues Awards.

What a superb performance, a great way to kick start the festival. Plenty of slide and stomp box and to finish off with The Ballad of Hollis Brown was the icing on the cake!

<http://bluesboydanowen.com/>



Blues Boy Dan Owen

Next to grace the stage were [Ron Sayer](#) on guitar and vocals with excellent [Charlotte Joyce](#) on keyboard and vocals with the rest of the band. Well seasoned performers. We caught a few numbers then moved on to the trail.

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



Ron Sayer

[David Raphael Band](#) are the ambassadors for the blues scene, playing on the fringe this year at the Old Gate Pub, but will hopefully be on the main stage next year! Harmonica driven by David with superb guitar work and vocals from Nick Hyde the whole band are 'class' musicians.

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



David Raphael Band

Back on the main stage, [Aynsley Lister](http://www.aynsleylister.co.uk/) proved what a great guitarist he is, although for me most of his material tended to be at the pop end of the blues.

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



Aynsley Lister

Paddy Maguire's Midnight Jam the best bits of the evening!



Guests from the evening join the jam

Saturday 25th May

On the Salem Acoustic Stage, [Tom Attah](http://www.tomattah.com/) provided an entertaining and humorous performance as well as some history of the blues. Great roots and acoustic player, well known in and around Lancashire when he teams up with Franny Eubank.

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



Tom Attah

Next on the Salem Electric Stage the [Trevor Sewell Band](http://www.trevorsewell.com/) from the North East. A well established and respected blues band

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



Trevor Sewell Band

Back on the Salem Acoustic Stage [Mississippi MacDonald](http://mississippimacdonald.com/). New to me, great country blues in true Mississippi style for a blues man from the UK

<http://mississippimacdonald.com/>



Mississippi MacDonald

[Tim Aves & WOLFPACK](http://www.timwolfpack.moonfruit.com/) on the Electric Stage were good down to earth blues. Tim has rocked around Essex for quite a while and Joel Fisk, a superb unpretentious guitarist exuding talent has many fingers in pies.

<http://www.timwolfpack.moonfruit.com/>



Tim Aves & WOLFPACK

[Wooden Horse](http://www.woodenhorsemusic.co.uk/) next on the Acoustic Stage. A treat for me to hear Wooden Horse live, having listened to their album. A superb acoustic duo whose repertoire covers roots, country blues, Americana and more. Hailing from Worcester they are a must see if you enjoy acoustic blues and more.

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



Wooden Horse

The [Russ Tippins Electric Band](http://www.russtippins.com/)...Wow!!! On the rock side of blues, but what superb musicians. Russ on guitar and vocals provides the Page style seamless solo's, while John Dawson powers with incredible energy on the bass guitar and Ian Halford drives the rhythm section on drums. Great new album out at the moment - 'Combustion'

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



Photo by Tony Winfield

Russ Tippins Electric Band

On the acoustic stage [Rabbit Foot](http://rabbitfootmusic.com/), who are now two members. Carla Viegas on African drums and vocals, and Jamie Morgan on Guitar and vocals. A fresh approach to the 'blues' with what they refer to as 'Swamp Boogie'. A very different performance to what you would expect at a blues festival but it does make a refreshing change. Carla has been nominated in the British Blues Awards for Best Instrumentalist and she certainly knows how to get the best out of those drums!

<http://rabbitfootmusic.com/>



Photo by Tony Winfield

Rabbit Foot

Back on the main stage in the chapel for the evening performance we were greeted by [LR Phoenix](http://www.lrphoenix.com/), an acoustic blues roots master. Having heard about his performances, he was a must see. He did not disappoint.

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



LR Phoenix

Next up on the main stage were the excellent [Paul Lamb and Detroit Breakdown](#) from the US. All I can say is ... what an amazing drummer and bass player!!!

<http://www.p-a-u-lmusic.com/>



Paul Lamb and Detroit Breakdown

A great female vocalist, [Jo Harman](#) next, with her band. She has taken the festival scene by storm this year. A real favourite with the 'male' gender. She has a very soulful voice, full of passion, a great set.

<http://joharman.com/>



Jo Harman

Sneaking out from Jo's set, we popped into The Old Gate to catch the [Blues Boy Kings](http://bluesboykings.wix.com/bbk), and what a treat, I'm glad I managed to hear them. From Lincoln they are a great well put together blues band. Hopefully they will be gracing the main stage next year!

<http://bluesboykings.wix.com/bbk>



From Blues Boy Kings FB page

Blues Boy Kings

Paddy Maguire's midnight jam always a treat!



Midnight Jam and Guests

Sunday 26th May

Sunday kicked off on the Salem Acoustic Stage with [Richard Townsend](#)



Richard Townsend

On the Salem Electric Stage a young man I've been meaning to catch for a while. [Alex Mckown](#) ... only 16, but plays like a seasoned guitarist. Joined at Hebden on the Salem Electric Stage by guests. A superb set, I hope to see some more of this young talented musician.

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



Alex Mckown

Next on the Salem Electric Stage were the [Jules Carter Trio](http://www.lemonrock.com/julescartertrio). From Hertfordshire, the band was steeped in the music of Cream, Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughan and more. A great sound from this blues/rock trio with some self penned tracks as well.

<http://www.lemonrock.com/julescartertrio>



Jules Carter Trio

Ah, the Lancashire lass herself ... the lovely [Lucy Zirins](http://www.lucyzirins.com/) from Burnley on the Salem Acoustic. Just a magic performance and what charisma with the audience. She has a new acoustic album out at the moment 'Chasing Clocks', not all blues, but a pleasant mix of self penned works. Magic! She has also been nominated in three categories of the British Blues Awards for 2013

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



Lucy Zirins

Following on the Salem Electric Stage were [Northsyde](http://www.northsyde.co.uk/#!/splash) a powerful rocky band. The band is fronted by vocalist Lorna Fothergill, who writes most of the songs for the band. Lorna is certainly a 'blues shouter' with definite tones of Janis Joplin. The music from the band would not be out of place on a Led Zeppelin album.

<http://www.northsyde.co.uk/#!/splash>



[John Crampton](http://www.johncrampton.co.uk/) kicked off the evening session on the Main Stage. He can only be described as a one man blues band! What a great performance, with blues and bluegrass he played superb guitar on his National Steel with slide and acoustic, with the addition of banjo and harmonica. A truly 'epic' performance!

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



John Crampton

Next up on the Main Stage was the [Kyla Brox Band](http://www.kylabrox.com/), the best of blues, soul and jazz. From Manchester, Kyla and her band have not had the recognition they deserve. This is a 'class' band and the performance they gave proved the point.

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



Kyla Brox Band

[Junkhouse Dog Blues Band](http://www.junkhousedog.com/) were out on the fringe but were well worth a check out. From Manchester, this harp driven band had the audience stunned. Slightly bonkers with their antics, this didn't detract from their musical ability. Luke Shaw takes the lead on harp and vocals, Nic Elsby on guitar, an upright bass player and a drummer that just has to sit there keeping 'them there' rhythms! Great band for getting audience participation!!

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



Junkhouse Dog Blues Band

[Marcus Bonfanti](#) and [Paddy Milner](#) took to the Main Stage as the last act to what had been a brilliant festival. A favourite of mine, Marcus Bonfanti on guitar and the most excellent Paddy Milner on keys. Their third year of headlining at Hebden ... I hope it's not their last. A great performance as usual!!!!

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

<http://paddymilner.com/>



Photo's by Tony Winfield Marcus Bonfanti



Paddy Milner

[Paddy Maguire's](#) Midnight Jam what a great way to end this amazing festival!



Paddy Maguire and the final 'Jam' ... 'Hallelujah' ... Well done to all who made it a success!

Rosy Greer - Lancashire Blues Archive - <http://www.facebook.com/lancsbluesarchive>