

Review for NEWARK BLUES FESTIVAL @ The Castle and Venues in Newark,
Nottinghamshire 9th – 11th September 2016 <http://www.newarkblues.co.uk/>
By Rosy Greer - Lancashire Blues Archive



We managed to get to Newark Blues Festival for the Saturday evening session at the Castle, after the rain that had hit during the afternoon, I think it was a good move!

Saturday

First band on this evening were the very competent **Della Grants**. An excellent set from this young, well put together band from Leicester. With their own distinctive style of blues rock laced with classic rhythm & blues, their music has a definite place in the new blues movement.



Della Grants

A highlight for me were local band '**Total Strangers**', playing on the bandstand (the Band Between Bands as it is known), between the main stage sets. What a refreshing band with chill out blues, wonderful vocals reminiscent of Paolo Nutini and some classy funky rhythms from the excellent drummer and a superb harmonica player, well worth a check out for festivals next year.



Total Strangers

Next on the main stage, a continued favourite of mine, the totally original **LaVendore Rogue** from Essex. With a mix of blues and Americana, they certainly didn't disappoint with tracks from their excellent album 'Light Up With .. LaVendore Rogue' and a few 'Hokie Joint' numbers included for good measure. Fronting the band on vocals and pure theatre was JoJo Burgess, with Joel Fisk on amazing guitar, Warren Lynn on superb keys, Rob 'Tank' Barry on bass, and Stephen 'Cupsey' Cutmore on drums all adding to an amazing performance.



LaVendore Rogue

Another four piece band on the Band Between Bands, were '**Earl**'. Based in the SW and Wales, they played a mix of songs including blues, Americana with a dash of country.

Back on the Main Stage were **The Stevie Nimmo Trio**. With standard blues rock, with the award winning 'Nimmo style', an enjoyable performance from Glaswegian Stevie and his band.



Stevie Nimmo Trio

A great jam between **Total Strangers** and **Earl** at the band stand. It's good to hear musicians gelling so well. Great vocals and some class guitar and harp work too.



Total Strangers & Earl

The final band on tonight was the **Ian Siegal Band**. Some great country blues as you would only expect from award winning Ian. Supported by his band from Holland, with some class guitar work from the young guitarist, **Dusty Ciggaar** with such a unique sound.



Ian Siegal Band

Sunday

With the sun shining brightly, it couldn't have been a better day for the presentation of the **British Blues Awards**. With some excellent bands and artists to add to the enjoyment of the day, it was a well supported occasion.

The first act of the afternoon was a young and talented singer songwriter from London, blues man, **Jack J Hutchinson**, performing an acoustic set with the help of a harmonica player.



Jack J Hutchinson

With the awards underway, the next band on stage was the young and talented twenty year old **Alex McKown** and his band from Glossop. Alex is not a stranger to Newark and has appeared at many of the award ceremonies. He has also been nominated in the Young Artist of the Year category on several occasions. A pleasing set of blues rock from this talented band with some great blues shuffles. The guys are well seated in the 'youth of blues'.



Alex McKown Band

Another young band to take the stage were **The Lewis Hamilton Band**. Hailing from Scotland, but now living in N Yorkshire, Lewis has been making a name for himself over the last few years. The band played blues rock with an edge, with Lewis on strong vocals and excellent guitar.



Lewis Hamilton Band

Next to hit the stage was female fronted band, in the form of the **Katie Bradley Band**. Katie, on powerful vocals and harmonica, drives the four piece classic electric blues band to excellence.



Katie Bradley Band

The final band on this special day were the **Del Bromham's Blues Devils** from London. With Del, of the 70's rock band 'Stray', on impressive guitar and vocals, this four piece gave us blues rock bordering on classic rock. An excellent performance from a well seasoned player with some fantastic stomp and slide towards the end of the set.



Del Bromham's Blues Devils

Although that was the end of the festival in the Castle grounds, the Trail continued until late. Heading to the Flying Circus we caught the tail end of **Robin Bibi's** set of classic acoustic blues.

It was then onto the Ram, catching the experienced blues and Americana band '**Sons of Delta**'. With the addition of harmonica, mandolin and some excellent slide guitar they had a great sound.

The finale was the Jam in the Ram, which was hosted by the **Total Strangers** as the house band. They were joined on stage by numerous guests including **Robin Bibi** and the excellent young **Benjamin Bassford**, it proved to be an evening to remember.

Newark Blues Festival is one of excellence, so thanks go to all the organisers, volunteers and sponsors that who's hard work make the festival possible. Thanks also go to all the bands and artists who played throughout the town to make this festival what it is.



Rosy Greer - Lancashire Blues Archive and Independent Reviewer
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