

**Review for HEBDEN BRIDGE BLUES FESTIVAL**  
**23rd -25th May 2014 @ Hebden Bridge, W Yorkshire**  
<http://www.yorkshirebluesfestival.co.uk/>

A happy and sad occasion ... the festival, yet again went down a storm, but sadly it was to be the last '**Hebden Bridge Blues Festival**'. After four great years, and two prestigious awards under their belt, the Hebden team have decided to call it a day ... but that didn't stop it going out with a bang!!!

I couldn't get to see everyone on the line up, so apologies to those who don't get a mention.

Arriving Friday we pitched up our tent, in the rain, at the delightful Household Farm, up on the tops, then headed into town. The weather was a bit different from last year, but we were certain to enjoy the festival, rain or shine!

First up on the Main Stage in the Chapel, was '**Julian Burdock**', doing a solo set with multi electronic bits and pieces, with electric and acoustic guitars. Blues with and 'edge'!

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



Following Julian, were one of my favourite bands at this time, '**David Migden & The Twisted Roots**'. They didn't disappoint. Not a traditional blues band, they lean towards jazz, with alternative overtones ... think Zappa. A great set. David has been nominated for the Male Vocalist of the Year in the British Blues Awards 2014 and anyone who has heard him sing can understand why.

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



The final band of the evening were the young and talented '**Virgil and the Accelerators**'. Very much on the classic rock side of blues, but a great set with energy and some excellent guitar playing.

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



Now, probably the best bit of the evening '**Paddy Maguire's Midnight Jam**'. With a plethora of guests, just rockin'!!!!





## Saturday

We made our way to the Outlaw Stage at the Chapel, which was a free stage, showcasing three great bands.

First up was **'MaKuini'**, supported by the **'Hoo Doo Men'**. MaKuini has had a chequered history, singing in venues around the world, from the clip joints in LA to the London Palladium. Hailing from New Zealand and the Maori community, she moved to England in the late 1970's and now lives in the Northwest. She is beginning to put her amazing vocal stamp on the blues with her new album **'Blues In My Bones'**, with songs as a tribute to the iconic blues singer the late Etta James, but with a definite MaKuini take. Today she gave a powerful performance with a mix of songs taken from her current album and previous EP and was well supported by Pete 'Sarge' Frampton and the Hoo Doo Men.

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



Next on stage were **'The Bare Bones Boogie Band'**. A great earthy blues rock band formed in London from across the UK, fronted by Helen Turner from Glasgow on vocals, they gave a great performance with tracks from their current album **'Tattered And Torn'**

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



The final act on the Outlaw stage were a favourite of mine, **'Forty 4'**. From Liverpool, they gave their own take of blues funk. Tremendous vocals from Neil Partington, who also plays a mean guitar, along with Paul Starkey who also plays superb guitar from the school of Clapton, brilliant. The magic fingers of Glen Lewis on keys and the solid rhythm section of Nick Lauro on drums and Bill Price on bass. They played several numbers from their excellent album **'44 Minutes'**. A superb set from these talented guys.

<http://www.forty4music.com/>



We then made a visit to the Salem Acoustic Stage to catch the last couple of numbers from the charismatic Scots man, **'Dave Arcari'**. Raw and rootsy with an element of punk, would be one way to describe him. A thrasher of the resonator guitar and once seen never forgotten!

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



Courtesy of Brian Kimberley



A brief visit to the Salem Electric stage for the '**Nat Martin Band**', very Jazzy and funky. Then it was back to the Main Stage in the Chapel for the evening show.

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

First on this evening were '**The Blues Boy Kings**'. A superb blues band from Lincolnshire with a mix of self penned songs, classic blues and swing. As a 5 piece they have a great sound, enhanced by the sax in my opinion. Fronting the band on guitar and vocals was Jase North with Sam North on bass and also on vocals. Dave Taylor on superb sax and Steve Gooding on keys with the power house of Mark Barrett on drums (The Hoax) The band were joined for a guest spot by Jon Amor also from the Hoax so what a great way to start the evening.

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



Next '**Paul Lamb and The Detroit Breakdown**' from the US. Paul is bit of a 'Rock God' on guitar and vocals and what a great drummer Layla Hall is, along with the multi talented Joey Spina on bass, guitar and vocals. Aynsley Lister joined them for a number so that was a bonus. They also did an amazing acoustic number, just excellent. The band have been nominated for the Overseas Artist of the Year in the British Blues Awards 2014.

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



For the final act of the evening the '**Motives**' came to the stage with Matt Taylor, giving a classic rock blues take.

<http://the-motives.com/>

To complete the evening '**Paddy's Midnight Jam**' included Jon Amor and Aynsley Lister. They did a great rendition of Purple Rain!



The Jam - Courtesy of Brian Kimberley

## Sunday

Bit late to the Salem Acoustic Stage, but caught a couple of numbers from '**Half Deaf Clatch**'. A strong roots acoustic player who is a nominee for the Acoustic Artist of the Year in the British Blues Awards 2014.

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

Now onto the Salem Electric Stage for the genius that is '**Tom Attah and his Band**'. Some superb raw blues and fantastic harmonica playing from '**TJ Norton**'. One of the best sets so far.

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

<http://tjnortonmusic.jimdo.com/>





We took a break away from the main stages to catch the '**Revelator Band**' at The Old Gate, Trail Venue. A great weird and wonderful band which provided entertainment as well as good music.  
<http://www.revelatorband.com/>



Back on the Main Stage, a great solo set from Welsh born Australian singer songwriter, Gwyn Ashton, as a one man band with electric and slide guitar, bass drum and harp. A really enjoyable set, interspersed with humour. He plays raw Chicago/New Orleans blues with added extras, just brilliant!  
<http://www.gwynashton.com/>



We had a brief catch for the Welsh band '**The Mark Pontin Group**', who have been nominated in the Emerging Artist category in the British Blues Awards 2014, before heading out to The Crown, Trail Venue to see the young and talented Scottish group, '**The Lewis Hamilton Band**', with their own take on blues rock.  
<http://markpontingroup.com/>      <http://www.lewishamiltonmusic.com/>

A highlight on the Main Stage at the Chapel was the amazing **'Russ Tippins and the Electric Band'**. Russ never fails to put together a jaw dropping performance with self penned tracks from his albums 'Electrickery' and current album 'Combustion' , with a smattering of Zeppelin and more. Put this together with John Dawson on super bass and Ian Halford on hard hitting drums, just brilliant. Big John Dawson has been nominated for Bass Player of the Year for the British Blues Awards 2014 and deservedly so, he is an animated and energetic, most talented player. We also had the treat of Miss Jenna Hooson joining the band on stage to belt out the number 'Mama Don't Allow' from the Combustion album. Absolutely fantastic!!!

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



The final act for this evening were the excellent **'Northsyde'**, a rocky blues band with an added a bit of soul and a great female vocalist, Lorna Fothergill who gave her all for the performance. Jon Amor also guested with them on stage to add to the ambiance. The whole band have been nominated in various categories for the British Blues Awards 2014.

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



Then to the final **'Paddy's Midnight Jam'**, which was an all star event. A very moving end to what has been a prestigious festival for the last four years and will be sadly missed. Thanks go to Paddy, Jason, Jenna and Kate and all the volunteer helpers over the years, for their dedication and hard work and for **'Keeping Live Music Alive'**





The Jam - Courtesy of Brian Kimberley

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