

Review for MARYPORT BLUES FESTIVAL (Main Stage)
@ Maryport, Cumbria 29th - 31st July 2016 <http://maryportblues.org/>
By Rosy Greer - Lancashire Blues Archive



Another year of this great festival set in the charming fishing port of Maryport, on the west coast of Cumbria. With Main Stage marquee hosting some cracking blues makers plus an Outside Stage with a mix of music and superb Trail venues throughout the town all added to the great atmosphere. Staying within the bounds of the Main Stage this year, we were delighted with class line up.

Friday

Kicking off on Friday evening were **The Mighty Bosscats**, a 4 piece blues band from Essex. Fronted by guitarist singer songwriter Richard Townsend, they had a leaning towards country Texas blues. An excellent band to kick start the festival.

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



The Mighty Bosscats

Following were 3 piece rock band from Manchester, **Blackballed**. With their own style of 'groove rock', they are certainly a great stage band and gave a high energy entertaining performance. <http://www.blackballedband.com/>



Blackballed

The penultimate act for Friday were **The Stevie Nimmo Trio**. Always a crowd puller and it was good to see the Marquee so busy. Playing classic blues rock, in Stevie's own style with a full on sound. Excellent guitar work as usual with superb bass.

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



Stevie Nimmo Trio

The final band of the evening were **The Ian Siegal Band**, a favourite in Maryport. Ian played his own individual style of country blues with his full band. A great sound showcasing many Siegal classics. <http://iansiegal.com/>



Ian Siegal Band

Saturday

Opening the Saturday extravaganza were Carlisle based **Redfish**. A good down to earth blues band, with a great sound. Some class musicianship from the 5 piece with excellent slide guitar on some classic covers. <https://www.facebook.com/Redfish>



Redfish

The next act totally blew us away, the brilliant duo of **Fisk & Amor**. Playing a mix of self penned songs by Joel Fisk and Jon Amor with a few classic covers, they gave a brilliant performance alternating electric, acoustic and slide guitar. Both are excellent vocalists and

guitarists in their own right. They played a spine chilling Blind Faith number 'Can't Find My Way Home' and the whole performance was one of the highlights of the festival.

<http://ioelfisk.co.uk/music/fisk-amor/>



Fisk & Amor

Will Wilde Band next with harmonica driven stomping blues and classic rock from this 4 piece. Great vocals from Will and exceptional harp playing.

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



Will Wilde Band

A change of line up as David Migden had to pull out because of an accident. Stepping in was the versatile **Jon Amor** with a 'put together' band for the evening going out as **The Crew**. Playing some of Jon's songs and blues classics they did a great job.
<http://ionamor.tumblr.com/>



Jon Amor & The Crew

One of my favourite bands on the circuit, **LaVendore Rogue** from Essex, didn't disappoint. Fronting the band on vocals and pure theatre was JoJo Burgess, with Joel Fisk on amazing guitar - both these guys are nominated in the British Blues Awards this year. Rob 'Tank' Barry on bass, and Stephen 'Cupsey' Cutmore on drums all added to an amazing performance. Missing their keys player today, friend Jon Amor stepped in again to support the band. An absolutely brilliant performance and the crowd were delighted, especially when ex band member from Hokie Joint, Giles King joined them on stage playing exceptional harmonica for few classic Hokie Joint numbers. The music they play leans towards Americana and they showcased tracks from their excellent current album 'Light Up With .. LaVendore Rogue' with meaningful ballads and up tempo numbers. They really have their own unique performance style and all I can say is brilliant! - they are certainly a crowd pleaser. Another highlight of the festival. <http://lavendorerogue.com/>



LaVendore Rogue

The headliner for Saturday was the iconic **Elkie Brooks**. At 71 she still commands an amazing performance. Singing a mix of her classic tracks with blues numbers thrown in for good measure, she certainly still has it. With an excellent band in support she played a great version of the Doors 'Roadhouse Blues' and finished off with an encore of 'Purple Rain'. An epic performance from a classy lady. <http://www.elkiebrooks.com/>



Elkie Brooks

Sunday

Local Carlisle band **13 Stars** opened the Sunday session. With a mix of southern rock and country. All are competent players in the 4 piece line up, with some great raw vocals. <http://www.13stars.co.uk/>



13 Stars

Malaya Blue from Norfolk, and her band of accomplished musicians, were next to the stage. Playing a mix of self penned and classic blues covers, the 5 piece added a range of mixed tempo's. With a new album 'Heartsick' on the table it was a great opportunity to give that an airing - especially as **Paul Jones**, who had played on the album, joined then on stage for a couple of numbers. Malaya has a great voice and the band have an excellent sound.

<https://malayablue.com/>



Malaya Blue

The up and coming young band **Red Butler**, gave a cracking high energy blues rock performance with a dash of soul for good measure. From Brighton they have been taking the country by storm. Fronted by female vocalist Jane Chloe Pearce, who could certainly strut her stuff and ably supported by Alex Butler on cigar box and electric guitars and master of the blues shuffle, Mike Topp on bass, and Charlie Simpson on drums, they were refreshing and entertaining. They have a new album coming soon 'Nothing To Lose' which I'm sure will be a great experience. <http://www.redbutlermusic.co.uk/>



Red Butler

The final act on the Main Stage were the iconic **Blues Band**, fronted on harmonica and vocals by **Paul Jones**. Playing good, down to earth, classic blues they gave a great performance to bring this excellent blues festival to a close.

<http://www.thebluesband.net/>



The Blues Band

Many thanks go to Debra Park, Ian Lambert and all the volunteers and sponsors who make this festival possible. Also well done to all the excellent bands who have played out on the Trail and the Outside Stage ... long may it continue!

Rosy Greer - Lancashire Blues Archive and Independent Reviewer

<http://www.facebook.com/lancsbluesarchive>