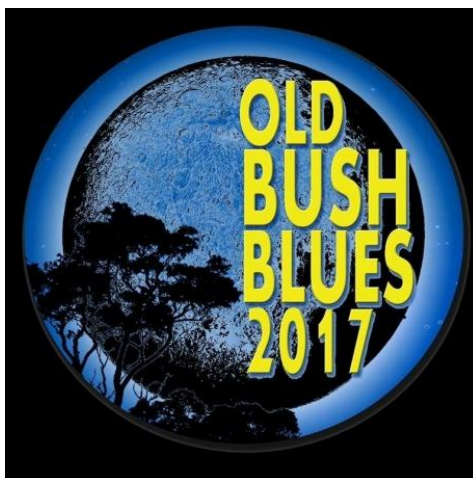


Review for THE OLD BUSH BLUES @ Callow End, Worcestershire - August 2017

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



This was the first time for me at The Old Bush Blues, a festival in the heart of Worcestershire and what a pleasant experience, even with the sometimes inclement weather.

Based in the grounds of the village pub, The Old Bush in Callow End, had three stages. With seamless change over's there was certainly music for all tastes, from traditional blues to blues rock, Americana to rockabilly with plenty of bluesy stuff in between.

Friday

The first act we caught on Friday was '**Elles Bailey**' and her band, on the Garden Stage. Hailing from Bristol, Elles the rising star, gave a brilliant performance. With a mix of self penned and classic material ranging from Americana on 'Perfect Storm', to a great version of Howlin' Wolf's 'Spoonful', interlaced with raw rocky numbers supported by superb slide guitar from the lead guitarist. On vocals and keys, Elles's husky voice is made for the blues. She describes her music as 'rootsy blues, country and soulful rock'. The debut album 'Wildfire' is due for release shortly.



Elles Bailey <https://www.ellesbailey.com/>

Heading for the Bar Stage we briefly caught the well seasoned '**Perry Foster**', with his definitive acoustic style of Delta country blues.

On the Car Park Stage '**Five Field Holler**' gave a solid performance of funky blues.



Five Field Holler <http://www.fivefieldholler.co.uk/>

The '**Rainbreakers**' from Shrewsbury were next on the Garden Stage. With a mix of well put together blues, rock and funk, they performed some of the numbers from their EP, 'Rise Up'. Great vocals and guitar from front man Ben Edwards, with Charlie on excellent lead guitar, Peter on bass and Sam on drums. They played a great funky version of 'Pacing Like Prince' and poignant soul based ballad 'Waiting For You'. Some fabulous rhythm changes on the funky 'Honey Jar' , demonstrating the true versatility of the band. There is certainly nothing average about these guys!



Rainbreakers <http://www.therainbreakers.com/>

Back on the Car Park Stage, the class musician, singer songwriter and guitarist '**Ian Parker**' and band, brought us some exceptional music. As a four piece, they kicked off with a wonderful classic version of 'Old Love'. With superb guitar, vocals and the best of blues rock, they played a mix of classics and early works including the brilliant 'Misfits And Fools' and 'Don't Hold Back'. Mort Morgan on keys, David Jenkins on bass, providing a memorable performance with David Jenkins taking the vocal lead on a Cream classic.



Ian Parker <http://www.ianparkermusic.com/>

A popular band on the Garden Stage were '**Trafficker**', showcasing renown singer songwriter Tommy Allan on lead guitar and vocals. A great set in their own unique style of blues rock, with Emil Engstrom on bass and Damon Clarridge on drums.



Trafficker <http://www.trafficker.rocks/>

The last band on the Car Park Stage was the Birmingham based '**Tom Walker Trio**'. Tom Walker as a guitarist and singer songwriter, has certainly been causing a stir country wide. Aged only twenty two he has certainly one of the best bands on the circuit with his mix of blues, rock and funk. Tom leads on amazing vocals and superb guitar. He was brilliantly supported by Deano Bass on bass and Nathan Anderson-Barr on drums. A great opener with the classic 'Crossroads' in Tom's own style,

then for some self-penned work from the current album 'Into Space'. Magic funky numbers and a great finish the classic 'The Thrill Has Gone'.



Tom Walker Trio <https://www.tomwalkerofficial.com/>

Saturday

On the Car Park Stage, a four piece band fronted by '**Steve Whalley**' kick-started the day. A good mix of blues and alternative material including a touch of reggae got the party started.



Steve Whalley <https://www.facebook.com/Steve-Whalley-131358276973290/>

Some well put together blues rock from '**Chicago 9**' on the Garden Stage. With harmonica driven front man and excellent vocals, they were a tight set-up, backed by a well organised bass and drums and proficient guitar player. A great up-tempo sound with a 'Feelgood' flavour.



Chicago 9 <http://chicago9.webs.com/>

The Brighton based '**Stuart James Band**' were next on the Car Park Stage. As a three piece they played blues rock with a leaning towards Hendrix. A good mix of covers and some excellent interplay between bass and lead guitar.



Stuart James Band <https://www.facebook.com/Stuart-James-Band-196954853215/>

A personal favourite of mine, the Burnley lass '**Lucy Zirins**' with her band on The Garden Stage. Lucy on excellent vocals and acoustic guitar, supported by bass and drums, gave an outstanding performance showcasing some exceptional new material. Lucy finished her set with a fabulous version of 'Wade In The Water', making it totally her own. Just excellent!



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

A big 'wow' for **'Northsyde'** on the Car Park Stage. Playing a mix of rock blues and funk, Lorna Fothergill on superb vocals, can certainly strut her stuff. Jules Fothergill played impressive guitar and slide, ably supported by Ian Mauricio on outstanding bass and Hayden Doyle on drums. A low-down and gritty performance with a mix of genres. Some cool blues with a dash of Howlin' Wolf were the order of the day.



Northsyde <https://www.facebook.com/NORTHSYDE.UK/>

Back on the Garden Stage some classic R&B in the form of **'Red House'** from Bristol. With a dash of rock 'n roll the trio had a great sound with bass and upright bass. Lead vocals came surprisingly from both the drummer and guitarist.



Red House <http://www.redhouse3.co.uk/>

The last band of the evening was **'Sugar Mama'**, getting down and dirty.

Sunday

Slowing the pace with an acoustic blues duo on the Car Park Stage, in the form of **'Kyle and Shaw'** made it a pleasant sunny afternoon.



Kyle & Shaw

Following on the Garden Stage, was the accomplished acoustic blues guitarist, singer songwriter, Steve Brooks. An easy listen with a mix of classics continuing the pleasant afternoon.



Steve Brooks <http://stevebrookesmusic.com/>

Rockin' it up on the Car Park Stage were the Paddy Maguire Band - featuring Jenna Hooson on amazing vocals. From Halifax they played great blues rock with a dash of Hendrix. Paddy Maguire leads on guitar, Jamie Mallender on bass and Liam Grey on drums, they were briefly joined by American guitarist Paul Lamb. Jenna has a fantastic voice and she belted out classic numbers with a brilliant take of 'Proud Mary' and the fantastic Janis Joplin number 'Mercedes Benz'. Plenty of audience participation and it was great to see Paddy wandering in the crowd with his guitar.



Paddy Maguire Band ft Jenna Hooson <http://www.paddymaguire.com/>

Back in the Garden some great 'rockabilly' with The Delray Rockets. In full regalia they gave a lively performance with fabulous upright bass.



Delray Rockets <http://www.thedelrayrockets.com/>

Taking the Car Park Stage by storm, the charismatic LaVendore Rogue from Essex, gave their individual take on blues inspired Americana. With a mix of old and new material they certainly are a performance band. The flamboyant JoJo Burgess fronts the band, delivering fantastic vocals, aided by Joel Fisk, one of the best electric and slide guitarists on the circuit today. Stephen 'Cupsey' Cutmore continues to keep the rhythm in check on drums and percussion, Warren Lynn on keys and new to the band James Payze on bass. A great take on their classic 'Dead Man's Chest', some alternative Charley Patton and the Stones 'Get Off My Cloud', a great end to a brilliant set.



LaVendore Rogue <http://lavendorerogue.com/>

The last band for us at this great little festival, were the excellent Troy Redfern Band on the Garden Stage. Giving us plenty of slide driven guitar they were certainly a high energy blues rock band, but with an edge. Young and talented guitarist, fourteen year old Marcus, guested with them for a couple of numbers, certainly a young man to watch out for!



Troy Redfern Band <http://troyredfern.com/> ft Marcus

Jules Benjamin, rounded off what had been a fantastic festival, despite the intermittent rain. A big 'well done' goes to **Matt Williams**, Landlord of the Old Bush, for his vision and to all the volunteers who made it possible. Also to all the acts who performed at the festival who I missed watching. It is certainly a festival I will attend again, so long may it continue.

Rosy Greer - Lancashire Blues Archive and Independent Reviewer

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