

Review for Thamesfest Music Festival @ The Talbot Inn, Eynsham, Nr Oxford

Friday 19th - Sunday 21st July 2013 <http://thamesfest.co.uk/>

Thamesfest is a small, but well put together, music festival in the Oxford area. This was the second year of this successful event, going from a one day happening last year to a full weekender this year. The Talbot Inn hosts the festival and provides an ideal location, being on the River Thames and serving excellent food and real ales.

Nick Clack, who organised the event, is also a seasoned musician. He teamed up with Trevor, the landlord of the Talbot, to share the vision of promoting a weekend of live music.

The Festival kicked off on Friday evening with a new band on the circuit, '*The Missing Persians*' a four piece from the Oxford area. They are all seasoned musicians and play an eclectic mix of music from blues, country blues to Tex Mex and Americana with jazz overtones. They gave a tight performance and were well received by the audience. We will definitely hear more from these guys in the coming months. <http://www.themissingpersians.com/>



Saturday was certainly a power packed day. Opening the afternoon on a glorious sunny day was local acoustic player '*Davey Johnson*'. Reminiscent of Paul Simon, he provided a nice easy listen with proficient guitar playing and also has a great voice.



Next booked was Mike Maddams ... but he didn't turn up!!! His loss! **'Ian 'The Pump' Macintosh'** kindly stood in at short notice to do a solo spot. Showing true professionalism Ian, over from Australia, did a great set with a 'fun folk' influence. http://www.wheezeandsuck.com/about_us.htm



On next were the slightly 'quirky' band **'Reckless Sleeper'**. Known locally as 'Killer Warble' they had influences of the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band and provided an alternative to the norm.



In contrast to the last band, **'Crayfish'** who were next on stage, were all experienced and highly respected musicians and an excellent up tempo band with some great harmonica playing and two lead guitars. They are an 'occasional' band playing in the Oxford area who get together just a few times a year. Playing covers of blues and country blues they showed great musicianship on all tracks but I especially liked their rendition of 'Jessica' (Top Gear)



Ian 'The Pump' Macintosh' now returned to the stage, but this time backed by the '**Missing Persians**'. Some brilliant self penned works with a folk/punk feel superbly backed by the band, it was hard to believe these guys had had only one rehearsal!!!! A fellow Oz, '**Rosie Macdonald**' joined Ian on stage as his guest for a few numbers. A memorable set.

http://www.wheezeandsuck.com/about_us.htm



A special young man and his band now came to the stage. '**TOBI**' who is Andy Frasers(Free) prodigy was playing with his own band this evening. Leaning towards rock, there was some great guitar work from Tobi and also the bass player, with a power packed drummer. They are a young band with incredible talent. <http://www.tobiofficial.com/>



The '**Missing Persians**' did another excellent set before the final act of the day '**Steamrollar**' took to the stage. Steamrollar are a well followed blues/rock band from Oxford and provided a great finale for this evening of the festival. Plenty of fun and dancing was required, with some classic blues/rock numbers. <http://www.steamroller.moonfruit.com/>



Sunday kicked off with acoustic player '**Davey Johnson**' again, followed by '**Adrina & Johnson**', a blues duo who played 'honky tonk' blues and plenty of 'boogie woogie'. Adrina provided superb vocals with Johnson on keys.



'**1000 Mile Highway**' continued the entertainment for the afternoon. A five piece country/Americana band, provided a mix of musical talent. All are incredibly versatile musicians playing a variety of instruments including mandolin, acoustic guitar, violin, harmonica plus some excellent slide guitar and vocals. A great sound. http://1000milehighway.com/fr_home.cfm



Next a bit of 'fun' time with the '**Legendary Pete Fryer Band**'. They played a mixture of covers from the 60's and 70's and provided some humour in the entertainment. Hailing from the Oxford area they have been on the circuit for many years. Pete Fryer on vocals, his brother Phil on guitar with Sue Smith on bass and Nick Clack on drums. Des Barkus also did a guest spot on harmonica. <http://petefryerband.net/>



The last band of the festival were the **'Tom Michell Trio'** and what a treat! Blues with a bit of funk, Chicago blues and blues rock from this talented band. They performed some self penned work as well as some excellent covers from Muddy Waters and Stevie Ray Vaughn, they also did a great rendition of Crossroads. Tom has a superb voice and guitar style and performed some excellent slide guitar. Fantastic bass playing by Pete Thomas and super tight drumming by Tom Sibby made this band, for me, the icing on the cake!! Look out for these guys at next years festivals, you won't be disappointed!!! <https://www.facebook.com/Tommichelltrio?fref=ts>



What a great 'little' festival and congratulations to all those involved behind the scenes. Special thanks to Nick Clack for his 'vision', Trevor for his great pub and a mention for the tireless soundman John Jacob known as JJ. Lets hope we see the return of this successful event next year 'Keeping Live Music Alive' <http://www.talbot-oxford.co.uk/>



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