

Review for 'STOURBRIDGE BLUES DAY' - 17th May 2014

@ The Old Halesonians RFC

Well, all was not lost!! The initial '**Stourbridge Blues Festival**', as a two day event, had to be cancelled through lack of ticket sales. Because this was primarily a charity event in aid of Cancer Research, some of the bands kindly offered to play for nothing so the event could go ahead.

So there we have '**The Stourbridge Blues Day**', and what a great one!!

Kicking off the afternoon was the '**Big Wolf Band**', a power blues rock trio and what a great way to kick start the day and lift the roof off! Fronting the band on mega guitar and vocals was Jon Earp, with new member Ian Savage with full on bass and the power house of Andy Beddoes on drums and vocals. A great set from these rockin' guys. <http://www.bigwolfband.com/>



Big Wolf Band

Next was an opportunity for some local acts to take the stage. '**Matt Watkins**' a folk alternative solo guitar player, followed by '**Silver Thorn**', an alternative acoustic duo with Ashlee Turner on guitar and talented Georgie Tilt on vocals.



Matt Watkins



Silver Thorn

Then the treat of the '**Paul Stedman Band**', a full on classic blues band going out as a 7 piece today. With the unforgettable and charismatic front man Paul Stedman on vocals, what a great set from this vintage blues band. Plenty of audience participation and an opportunity for the dancers to hit the floor! <http://www.reverbNation.com/paulstedman>



Paul Stedman Band

Following were '**Blue Murda**', an acoustic 4 piece, giving a taste of the blues from the deep south with stomp and roots. Fronted on vocals by the earth song master Martin Wood, with resonator guitar, acoustic guitar and bass they gave a great performance and a fresh take, moving away from the electric blues. <http://www.reverbNation.com/bluemurda>



Blue Murda

The penultimate band of the evening were the '**Tom Walker Trio**', a great young blues rock band from Birmingham, with impressive musicianship. Fronting the band on super hot guitar and vocals was Tom Walker , with Jake Clarke on bass and the very impressive rhythm keeper James Burgess on drums and vocals. Some fantastic classic rockin' blues interspersed with takes from Hendrix to Robert Cray. A super well put together set, I will be looking out for these guys in the future.

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



Tom Walker Trio

The final act of the day and headlining, were the brilliant '**Brothers Groove**'. Nominated in two categories for the British Blues Awards 2014, they are in a class of their own. Performing in their own style of blues funk, with Shaun Hill on guitar and vocals, Nige Mellor on guitar and vocals, Deano Bass on bass and vocals and Jim Simpson on drums, they had the audience won over straight away. Brilliant guitar solos from Shaun and Nige and some fantastic slap bass from Deano. Plenty of dancing took place on this very 'funked up' set, what a great way to end a brilliant evening and festival. <http://www.brothersgroove.org/Home.html>



Brothers Groove

A special mention for **Gary Child** who organised the event. With all the hard work of putting together and coordinating an event it must have been hard to have to cancel at the eleventh hour. So it is with heartfelt thanks to all the artists that performed without payment to allow this gig to go ahead and to help raise funds for such a worthy charity.

Rosy Greer - Lancashire Blues Archive & Independent Reviewer

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