

# BOROUGH BLUES

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**This Month at the BBC – 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2012  
"Buddy Whittington"**



\*\*\* **SOLD OUT** \*\*\*

So glad to be introducing this act again! The big guy himself was here at Easter 2011, and what a gig! Okay, so last month we had the outstanding Innes Sibun, the month before we had Ian Siegal, British blues singer of the year 2012, and they were both very very good, but Buddy Whittington is an international act that should be mentioned in the same breath as Joe Bonamassa. Buddy emanates from the John Mayall stable that produced or nurtured many legends before him such as Eric Clapton, Walter Trout, and Coco Montoya. But John Mayall himself rates Buddy Whittington as the best guitarist he has ever had, and his vocals have power, subtlety and a range rarely found all together in the same package. This, Ladies and Gentlemen, is the real deal, and I have to remind you that this gig is already a sell-out so please do not turn up without a ticket as we are full to our legal capacity. It is always a gamble on the part of the committee when we stage such an event as this. We have to sell out in order to break even on the night, but we still feel that it is worth that risk in order to bring such quality to Torfaen!

**Also This Month at the BBC – 14<sup>th</sup>  
December 2012 "Eddie Martin"  
plus support from "Barely Grilled"**

Our Xmas gig sees the return of Eddie Martin, "The Ambassador of British Blues"

With 12 rave-reviewed cd releases and constant globe-trotting since turning professional in 1995, London-born Martin has been nominated best UK Blues Guitarist, Best Harmonica Player, Best Band, Best Acoustic Artist and Best Blues CD release many times,

his songs have made it onto TV and film soundtracks and to the song stable of Alligator Records. He has been broadcast live on international radio and TV with 3 sessions for BBC Radio 2, including at the famous Maida Vale Studios.

Martin honed his skills touring the US, and lived for a while in Texas. Following his first acclaimed USA tour he was befriended by the Dallas/Fort Worth Blues community and toured and recorded with the "Texas Blues Kings". As well as being recognised as a leading acoustic and electric guitarist he was also lauded as an Innovator for his rack-harmonica skills by the World Harmonica Festival in Germany where he performed solo, held a Masterclass and judged the World Blues Harmonica Competition.



His live performances have always attracted accolades, for example. "The stuff of legend" said Guitarist Magazine last year, "a live act not to be missed" said Blues Revue USA. A master songwriter, acoustic and electric guitarist, harmonica player and powerful singer, Eddie Martin has been described as "the most remarkable blues man of his generation" by Blues in Britain. The biggest circulation blues magazine in the world, Blues Revue, concurred: "One of the UK's best, whether solo/acoustic or loud/electric, he's a master of both, years of experience separate him from pretenders. An exceptional guitarist he's also been gifted with a most expressive blues voice. His greatest skill, however is his slide-playing. Add to that standalone harp skills and Mr. Martin's ability to coin a phrase and build a song, distinguishes him from others".

As it is Christmas there may even be some festive treats on the tables, and we have a support act thrown in too, "Barely Grilled". Emanating from the BBC Workshop nights featuring the outstanding young Gareth Leaman on lead guitar, Phil Avon on keys, and Paul Worthington on drums plus multi-talented musicians Dave Lewis and Nigel Hodge on as many different instruments as they can muster! With "yours truly" Steve Savidge on vocals Barely Grilled will aim to kick the night off in style.

**GIG REVIEW: Innes Sibun***Gig Review: Adrian Bold, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2012*

Venue Magazine said "He's toured the USA in Robert Plant's band, topped major festivals across Europe with his own band, and is

one of the finest electric blues guitarists in the UK. So why isn't Innes Sibun famous? Answers on a postcard ....." Well after this superb gig at the Borough Blues Club we would have to agree that it is a mystery why such a superb musician is not more widely acclaimed. It is true that Paul Jones on Radio 2 called Innes "One of the top three blues guitarists in the UK and Total Guitar remarked that Innes plays "Probably the best blues you'll hear all year" but this stature has not been reflected by coverage in the national blues press. That should change – and there is a case to nominate and vote for Innes Sibun in the National Blues Awards next year.

It was his guitar wizardry which first really impressed. He put together incredibly fast musical passages which demonstrated great technical ability, but avoided the tedium of continuous "flashy" playing. He varied timing, tone and speed with great subtlety and drove great six-stringed emotion through his amplifier rig to the delight of the audience. He was able to punch out hard driving rock at one moment and then immediately contrast that with beautiful and melodic jazzy solos – contrasting delicate touch with raw power.

On top of that Innes demonstrated that he is a great vocalist, a natural showman and would certainly win any air-guitar, gurning contest for fantastic facial contortions during his searing solos. He has a natural rapport with the crowd and was even to be seen dancing on the floor in front of the stage with some of the Borough Blues Club Belles! The crowd warmed to him (and, in fact, the whole band) and he responded with a series of spine-tingling numbers, both original and covers.

The band were very tight, as would be expected after a summer touring in Germany, Poland, Belgium, France, Lithuania and the Netherlands. (Incidentally, a small party of fans had journeyed from Holland to see this gig – testament to the virtuosity of the man!). Jon Buckett was superb on the keyboard, Robbie Brian was excellent on drums and it was worth

the ticket price alone just to see and hear Steve Hall on the bass. All in all, in my opinion, this rated as one of the top three or four performances we have ever had at the club and demonstrates that Innes Sibun should have a much higher profile than appears to be the case at the moment. I agree with Classic Rock Magazine - "National treasure status awaits"

**FORTHCOMING GIG'S**

1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2012 Buddy Whittington

*A welcome return for this American Giant of the Blues who spent nearly a decade and a half in John Mayall's Bluesbreakers.*

14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2012 Eddie Martin

*\*Note: The date for this gig has changed!*

*A truly blistering electric guitar player who blows a mean harp and scrapes a mean slide*

5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013 The Red Hot Pokers

*The amazingly talented Johnny Nedd returns after a spellbinding headline performance at our 2012 festival. What a start to the year!*

2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2013 Billy Walton Band

*USA born livewire blues/rock guitarist and singer has appeared with a host of big names including Bruce Springsteen, Double Trouble and Gary US Bonds*

2<sup>nd</sup> Mar 2013 TBA – watch this space!

*We had booked a return for Virgil and the Accelerators on 2nd March, but sadly they have pulled out, claiming that Virgil is now too big a star to humble our little club! We will find a bigger better act that would like to come, I promise you, they are queuing up!*

**Borough Blues News**

Another great year for the Borough Blues Club. Membership has gone from strength to strength, and are striving to improve the quality of our pa in order to satisfy the demands of more professional bands! Our summer festival also has improved over the last couple of years even though this year we had to stage it indoors we still managed to break even on the day. We have continued to attract audiences to New Panteg for some wonderful blues that has hopefully inspired a greater following of the genre. Let us hope we can continue to progress in the same vein throughout 2013!

Thoughts, comments or suggestions can be forwarded to [info@boroughblues.com](mailto:info@boroughblues.com) or just speak to us on the desk!

*That's all Folks*