

# BOROUGH BLUES

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## ***This Month at the BBC – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2013 “The Red Hot Pokers”***

The Red Hot Pokers (featuring Johnny Nedd) headlined our festival last year, and were absolutely outstanding. Johnny Nedd was a long standing member of Van Morrison's band, and is an extremely talented and versatile musician. He is as equally at home on fiddle, banjo and harmonica as he is on his fender Telecaster and his witty repertoire and inimitable vocal talent have earned him a huge reputation across South Wales and beyond. A great start to 2013, not to be missed.



## ***GIG REVIEW: Buddy Whittington***

***Gig Review and photos: Liz Aiken, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012***

A sell-out audience, the rugby club was buzzing as ticket holders arrived early, full of excitement and anticipation. Texan Buddy gave a demonstration of blues guitar playing at its very, very best with beautiful slide playing and creating a vast array of sounds and textures on his fender without a single effect pedal pure class. It is difficult to imagine that this guy was almost an anonymous side act when for 15 years he was John Mayall's guitarist. There is no doubt the the lyrics he has written himself reflect his own life experiences such as from his latest album 'Six String Svengali' 'Back when Beano Was Boss' and 'Fender Champ'. Buddy's playing reflected the influences of playing with Mayell for so long with hints of Peter Green, Eric Clapton and most definitely early ZZ Top. 'Texas Trio' a delightful tribute to texan musical talent with an impressive name check including Buddy Holly, Johnny Winter, ZZ Top reflecting his love of guitar led music that he now delivers as a frontman so well.



It was not all about showcasing his own work and there was definitely no hard sell by Buddy as he mixed in songs from his wide repertoire including Gary Nicholson's 'Jacksbro Highway' from his days with John Mayall and a beautiful rendition of early ZZ Top's 'Sure Got Cold After The Rain Fell', a timely reminder of what a great sound ZZ top produced. His playing of Freddy King numbers evoked the great man himself, close your eyes and he could have been playing at the Borough Blues especially when he played 'Woman Across The River'. Buddy responded to the many requests and inserted these into his set including Led Zeppelin's 'Since I've Been Loving You' and 'Heartbreaker' and delighting the dancers amongst the audience with an outstanding rendition of Rolling Stones' Brown Sugar as he said "for all of you who couldn't afford a ticket!", and Buddy sure appreciated the fact that the Borough Ladies got up and danced in front of the stage.



The rhythm section supporting Buddy were the perfect foil to the often fast and furious guitar riffs that Buddy performed with such ease with Pete Stroud who played his fretless bass with skill and aplomb and whose backing vocals augmented Buddy's perfectly. Pete's performance was a masterclass in how to play the bass and Darby Todd's drumming was a mix of the subtle and a loud strong rhythm that suited Buddy's approach to the Blues. The highlight for many was how friendly and approachable Buddy was this was no stand-offish prima donna as he happily spent the interval allowing people to have his guitar hanging from their shoulders and then posing for a photograph, these will be a cherished memento of a great evening for many who attended. There is no doubt that the crowded club room wanted Buddy and the band to play on and on but unfortunately like all great things the night had to draw to a close.

By the end of the evening the buzz was even louder and, the audience was definitely NOT disappointed. Buddy and his band had performed a perfect double set and treated us to a wonderful encore. What an evening - Borough Blues Club has done it again getting a class act for a class evening. This is only

possible if support is maintained throughout the year remember some of the acts that you haven't heard of will be another gem that you follow and come to love as much as Buddy.

### **GIG REVIEW: Eddie Martin**

*Gig Review: Liz Aiken, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012*

Lots of festive spirit was apparent at the annual Christmas party of the club as regulars welcomed first 'Barely Grilled' featuring many familiar faces including Steve on vocals, with two multi-talented musicians - Dave on rhythm guitar/harp/vocals and Nigel on Bass/Flute/Sax; Paul on drums, Phil on keys and last and definitely not least, a talented young lead guitarist Gareth. The band demonstrated the power of the classic standards including Hey Joe; Five Long Years and Black Magic Woman when executed with aplomb despite at times being a bit raw as expected with a new set. They were a great opening set for this party night demonstrating once again local talent and enthusiasm for the blues.

Eddie Martin and his band took to the stage with style and energy, Eddie leads from the front with great guitar playing demonstrating once again why he is so popular and his CD's are met with such critical acclaim. His latest 'Looking Forward Looking Back' as Blues in Britain said "An excellent fourteen track festival of luxury blues from this UK-blues-treasure. I found myself checking the writer's credits; surely this is from the pen of Percy Mayfield, and this from Big Joe's catalogue? But no, each and every track is penned by the estimable Mr Martin. Not content to write the songs, Eddie pitches in with blistering guitar and fine, authentic vocals." Eddie demonstrated throughout the evening his immense talent not just on guitar but also the harmonica and is seen as the innovator for his rack-style harmonica skills. The blues runs deep in the veins of Eddie and his trio of musicians reflecting years Eddie spent honing his skills touring the USA and living in Texas for a while perhaps him and Buddy (the other great musician who entertained us so royally during December) jammed together!

He is definitely a live act not to be missed as one great song followed another with strong lyrics and beat including his tribute to bluesmen of the past before SRV and Jimi, 'Johnny's Guitar rocks On'; 'I want That Girl' and 'Wanna Be Me' were both great adverts for his latest CD.

As Eddie gave showcase demonstrations on his guitars including beautiful slide guitar it is no wonder among his many press quotes includes this one from The Times "with house-rocking slide and Buddy- Guy-like pyrotechnics... he is among the UK's most respected blues musicians...."

Supporting Eddie was a stylish drummer Darby Todd who gave a solid performance giving the trio dynamic bedrock to work from. This was combined with spellbinding keyboard playing with the feet of John Paul Gard doing as much work as his fingers; the bass guitar was never missed as he filled the bass line with his left foot. This is a trio full of style and combining the traditional blues with a sound that is fresh and relevant to audiences today who want to be entertained.

### **FORTHCOMING GIG's**

- 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 *Billy Walton Band* £10/£8  
*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 *Chantel McGregor* £12/£10  
*Sure to sell out as she is consistently the act most requested to return to the club!*
- 6<sup>th</sup> April *Laurence Jones Band* £7/£5  
*A blend of Blues and Rock with a groovy and catchy modern edge. Laurence released his first professional album "Thunder In The Sky" in June 2012.*
- 11<sup>th</sup> May *Ned Evett (The glass guitarist)*
- 1<sup>st</sup> June *Tres Hombres*
- 6<sup>th</sup> July *The Idle Hands*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> August *DSW*
- 7<sup>th</sup> September *The Motives feat Matt Taylor*
- 5<sup>th</sup> October *Willie and the Bandits*

### **Borough Blues News**

Happy New Year to all our members and guests! We have a great year planned for 2013 as you can see above, so put the dates in your diaries!

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

That's all Folks