

# BOROUGH BLUES

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## *This Month at the BBC – 7<sup>th</sup> September “Red Hot Pokers” with “Danni Wells”*

Well... This month was billed as Matt Taylor and the Motives, but apparently Matt has some family issues and has had to cancel.

However, fear not! We have a superb and able replacement for the 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Borough Blues Club, we have Johnny Nedd and his band 'The Red Hot Pokers'.



The Red Hot Pokers were the best band on the South Wales circuit when I was but an adolescent teenager, and Johnny Nedd does not seem to have changed a bit in all that time! His lengthy spell with Van Morrison meant the Red Hot Pokers were put on the back burner for quite some time, but now they're back with a vengeance, and back here at the BBC this weekend for our entertainment! There will also be support from local artist Danni Wells.



Tickets will be £8 for members or £10 for non-members so we hope you will come and help us celebrate our birthday in style.

## *Next Month at the BBC – 5<sup>th</sup> October “Willie and the Bandits”*



Having toured their unique brand of rock music with the likes of Deep Purple, Joe Bonamassa, The John Butler Trio and Status Quo, Willie and the Bandits are now due to release their brand new studio album 'Grow'.

The band are renowned for creating an astonishingly huge sound, incorporating eclectic grooves from world music to blues/rock and back again, using unusual combinations of instrumentation such as tongue drum, djembe, lap steel guitar and double bass they push the boundaries of what is expected of a modern three piece.

Although difficult to pigeon hole, Willie and the Bandits are taking rock music to places it has never been before with a unique take on song writing which is fresh, but at the same time laced with nostalgia. The band really stand out as something special with how they successfully engage three generations of music lovers, all captivated by exquisite musicianship and soulful song writing which flows effortlessly throughout their performances. Even the most experienced of music lovers will have their head turned by the spellbinding concoction of Willie Edward's mastery of the slide guitar, Matthew Brooks' wizardry on the 6-string bass and Andrew Naumann's ability to conjure an irresistible groove from his vast selection of percussion.

Where the current trend is for superficial and predictable lyrics, Willie and the Bandits' words carry a sense of rational



judgment and hope delivered with a whiskey soaked drawl which ebbs and flows with emotion. Playing over 250 shows a year worldwide, their songs are a social commentary on what their road worn eyes have seen, never shying away from even the most poignant subjects. This is the time for change and that is exactly what the band seek to highlight with songs such as "Mammon" and "Still go marching in" echoing around your head with a Dylan-esque profoundness.

The band has developed a loyal underground fan base right across Europe, mainly from their explosive live shows. Their success in building a core fan base is a result of their versatility; whether busking or in a sold out arena the band have the songs and musicianship to command an audience and connect with people who will return for more. After playing many major festivals and events such as Glastonbury, Fusion Festival, Isle of Wight and the Olympic games, the band were chosen by The Kaiser Chiefs as one of the top unsigned acts in the UK and were described as having a distinctive sound and being "destined for big things".

With the band now ready to release their new album, the anticipation is that the UK's best kept secret is about to be let out.

<http://www.willeandthebandits.com>

**GIG REVIEW: "DSW"**  
3<sup>rd</sup> August 2013

The inaugural DSW gig at the Borough Blues Club was eagerly awaited by fans of Blue Traffic, who have due to popular demand, been very much a regular fixture on our calendar. Blue Traffic was Dave Williams on Lead Guitar and Lead Vocals, supported by an accomplished back line, and the expectation was that DSW would be more of the same but with new inspiration.

On arrival Dave set up a huge stack of guitar amps and speakers that seemed well over-specified for our little club... causing a few tremors of consternation as the last Blue Traffic gig at the club had received complaints due to the volume being too high for some. As the band kicked off their first set the fears of a few became a problem for many as the sheer volume of Dave's guitar detracted from the performance. There was none of the distortion you usually experience with over amplified



electric guitar... Oh no, this was crystal clear in its quality, it's just that the loudness actually inflicted an extremely uncomfortable feeling somewhere within my eardrums... Needless to say, I can barely even remember what was played during the first set, except that at some point there was a version of 'Crossroads', and the inevitable Hendrix numbers - 'All Along the Watchtower' and 'Red House'... tracks that I am sure would have been excellent at a more comfortable volume!



During the interval I took the opportunity to have a chat with Dave himself, and made sure he was aware of how uncomfortable the volume was, and he both apologised and thanked me for letting him know, so that he could address the situation. They started the second half with a promise to the audience to lower the volume, and what a difference! The first track was called 'Open Road' (Roxanne), that was a beautifully delicate slow blues one moment and then played with full on let it rip gusto the next... a perfect example of light and shade that was totally missing in the first half! There were a lot of new and interesting tracks that Dave Williams never did with Blue Traffic, and Ross McInch on the bass guitar proved he could sing too when he took the lead on 'White Room'. Vocal harmonies were evident on 'Before You Accuse Me' and Dafydd Davies on drums had his moment to shine with an excellent drum-solo during 'Fire'.

They had of course to play Voodoo Chile, I have never yet seen Dave Williams play a gig without including that track, so they finished on that high note leading to a well-deserved encore, they came back to give us a ZZ Top number that left us looking forward to the next opportunity to see this well accomplished band... but please, keep the volume at a sensible level all the way through next time!

**FORTHCOMING GIG's**

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept    | <i>The Red Hot Pokers</i>         |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> October | <i>Willie and the Bandits</i>     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov     | <i>Tommy Allen Band</i>           |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov    | <i>Ryan McGarvey</i>              |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec    | <i>Danny Bryant's Redeye Band</i> |

*That's all Folks...*

Borough Blues Club: Tickets - 01633 483238  
More info at: [www.boroughblues.com](http://www.boroughblues.com)