

player/vocalist) kept them all in order! Friends with me who had not heard them before were impressed and liked their laid back swampy down home back porch bluesy style. I have seen them several times and love Oliver's gritty Tom Waits style vocals and trumpet solos. Chris sang and played various instruments – the old ukulele was great. Abby has a beautiful voice and also had lovely solo moments as well as superb harmony to Chris and Oliver. Tony kept the beat going - through Mumbo's set and kept going and going... Favourites for the set were 'Regret It' and 'Nice Work'. Tommy Allen Band: Tommy on guitar and Vocals, Chris (Lomas) bass and Mick Barker drums. Forthright heavy rock beat blues songs and choice instrumentals. This is when the dancing got serious! We dancers 'Rocked Steady', walked the 'Walking Blues' stood at the 'Crossroads Of Love' and tried 'Texas Love' as well as 'Tried Living In The Belly' and many others before collapsing at the end of a spectacular show of musicianship from these guys. Just awesome!

Steve Roux and the Brass Knuckle band: I admit I had to go on the web to find out more about this band before going. They have played some great gigs and featured in respected festival line –ups but to date I'd not seen them. Their YouTube videos looked promising. In the flesh here at Taurus they were everything they say on the label Tony Bayliss depped for their injured drummer and pro that he is, and the band you hardly noticed the 'join'! We dancers stayed on the floor all through –hence I cannot remember individual songs after the likes of 'New York City', Rosco Gordons', 'No More Doggin' Around', 'Satisfy Suzie' 'Breaking Up Somebody's Home'. Horn and rhythm sections added to the stupendous guitar work from Mr Steve Roux. They play the next one day Festival in The Fold (Worcester) next month and we look forward to that dance session with relish!

Simon "Honeyboy" Hickling Band - The final band and what a band! Whereas I missed Johnny Hewitt and his harmonica from the Tommy Allen's band Honeyboy sure made up the deficit! His wild and exciting "Mississippi saxophone" style is impeccable. His band is awesome, even the drummer and yes you guessed it... Tony Bayliss played like his life depended on it! Simon's skilful, breathtaking performance had the whole place dancing including his lovely wife Monique. The Swansea girls took him to their hearts when he was a regular at the Tawe Delta Blues Club and all wore glitter festooned t shirts with his name on them. One Swansea girl missing was Louise who couldn't make it so Simon played 'Louise' – then mobile phones were out and the aforesaid Louise called so that she could hear the song dedicated to her. It was a grand little festival despite the downpours all day. It was a soggy walk back to the hotel but the day was, we all agreed, very much worthwhile and great fun. We then feasted on birthday girl Jean's chocolate fudge cake and a hot toddy! Look forward to next years' festival.

Diane Gillard (Sister Feelgood)

LINTON MUSIC FESTIVAL - The Alma Inn Nr. Ross on Wye, June 15th,16th,17th 2012

It was the best of festivals – It was the worst of weathers – to parody Chas Dickens - but we Brits stuck with it despite the challenges of gruesome quagmire car parks and swampy but never quite submerged camp site. Organisers had their work cut out but in true Dunkirk style spirit they coped magnificently. New sponsorship added to the traditional list of worthy sponsors and that this year there was plenty more cover to shelter from the tropical storms and squalls - conditions that could and DID wreck other festivals this summer but not Linton! Good programming and widening of musical horizons without detracting from the BLUES element that has been the mainstay of this festival over the years. It ensured the regulars turned up as usual and many new faces appeared. Dave Butler was excellent in his debut roll as MC for the weekend

Friday - Recommended by Paul Jones no less! 24 Pesos opened up the festival hero from Thin Lizzie - The Pesos took the music scene by storm in 2008 with their wild lively high energy set. (I better save some adjectives for the other bands or else I'll use them all up on this outfit!) They showed us why they have been nominated for this year' Blues Awards. Despite dreadful climatic conditions they got this Linton Festival and the dancing under away. Likewise the veteran rock bluesman of Thin Lizzie fame Eric Bell continued the process of engaging the audience with some vintage rocking blues and once again the punters took to their feet and bopped away in the damp soil. In support to him was an extremely talented rhythm section that had a long drum solo moment when Eric's guitar lead/amp? Gave up the ghost! Hero as he is too many there I watched them sing to all his 'hits' old and more recent. Following that the LA based band Vintage Trouble took the last spot of the night and went into a very up tempo lively set of thumping good blues with a little rock, R&B and soul thrown in for good measure. The crowd in front of the stage danced away and it was obvious why after this festival they were quickly on their way to gigs on into Europe. True professionals with talent by the bucketful they finished off day one in style.

Saturday - It was unfortunate that the opening band this day Red River Blues Band had a lousy start (not their fault) with technical trouble and probably the worst downpour of the whole weekend. In true pro style when things got going again so did they and they thrilled the audience



Adam Norsworthy from The Mustangs

All photos of LintonFestival supplied by Diane Gillard

Blues Matters! 99