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# ROCK SOCIETY

THE JOURNAL OF THE CLASSIC ROCK SOCIETY

ISSUE 197 • SEPT/OCT 2013  
www.classicrocksociety.co.uk  
£5.75



## Maschine

BEYOND THE CONCRETE LAKE

## ANATHEMA

*A look back at Weather Systems*

**James LaBrie**  
*Impermanent Resonance*

**MR SO & SO**  
*Truth, Lies and Half Lies*

**ROVO AND  
SYSTEM 7**

*Steve Hillage on Phoenix Rising*



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palms of their hands thanks to the energy and excitement on stage and vocalist Lawrence Case's showmanship.

Highlights included a rollicking 'Ferry Song' with a guest keyboard player (the band also had a sensational backing vocalist to further enhance the sound for this headline set), a storming 'Bullet' and a frantic 'Mary Jane'.

I always love a twin lead guitar attack and Meryl and Nick as always lit up the stage while sharing the solos leaving Ash and Matt to beef up the rhythm section.

I have seen these guys quite a few times but this was the best set I have seen them play and they really rose to the occasion.

**SATURDAY**

Another regular to the festival and this year **CHERRY LEE MEWIS** was up bright and early to open Stage 2 which (along with Sunday) was dedicated to the blues, and who better to put life into the festival's early risers than this breath of fresh air, the always cheerful and at times wonderfully sassy Cherry Lee Mewis, a real star with one of the best backing bands around.

This lady of the blues (she throws several styles into her music though) always delivers and this was a set full of quality including a soulful 'Midnight in Memphis', a cracking cover of 'Proud Mary' and a toe tapping 'Southbound Train'. There is so much action on stage with a Cherry set, the band interact throughout while she herself is simply musical dynamite, not standing still for a second. She is always one of my favourite live acts.

Another artist from my neck of the woods and making a big name for himself on the blues scene, **LAURENCE JONES** set stage 2 on fire with his early evening set. Only 21 yet full of confidence both in his music and stage craft, this was a set of full on blues rock.

Including the pedal-to-the-floor blues rock and roll of original rockers 'Bad Girl' and 'Going Down', the powerful ballad 'Thunder In The Sky', and unique interpretations of classics 'Struck



*Kristy Gallocher*

In The Middle With You' and 'All Along the Watchtower'. Laurence and his tight band did not put a foot wrong.

The first time I saw Laurence perform was guesting with Dr Feelgood's Steve Walwyn in a small venue in my home town of Leamington Spa and I knew straight away this was a real talent, lightning fast guitar work, quality vocal delivery and an exciting performer.

A founder member of rock band Stray **DEL BROMHAM** loves the blues and filled the stage with special guests for his explosive set including both the vocalist and guitarist of Pearl Handled Revolver and Cherry Lee Mewis along with her fabulous bass player.

Several numbers from his upcoming album 'Nine Yards' were showcased including his ode to Jack Daniels (both man and drink) 'The Ballad of JD', a fantastic duet with Cherry on 'What Comes Around' and a real blues stomper in 'Words'.

Full of charm and character Del has a powerful vocal delivery and with his all action guitar work and the addition of the quality performers sharing his stage this was one of the sets of the festival.

From Austria **CORNERSTONE** add a bright pop element to their brand of rock reminding me a little of Breathing Space in style. Original numbers mixed with a selection of well chosen covers made up the set and the band looked and sounded fantastic, vocalist Patricia Hillinger particularly adding a visual flair to proceedings and with a voice to match while on the guitar Steve Wechselhofer is a real talent.

Of the covers 'Black Velvet' really suited Patricia's vocals and the brace of rockers 'Burning Heart' and 'Enter Sandman' had the main stage rocking.

My only visit to the acoustic sage on Saturday was for **GALLOW'S GHOST**, a band that looked really interesting in the festival program, and turned out to be just that. Using a vast array of instruments including Cello, Violin, guitar, bass,

tambourine and harmonica this original sounding band played beautiful, haunting and at times gloriously dark numbers with mysterious titles like 'Love Is The Killer In You' and 'Ravens Void'.

Really enjoyed this beautifully performed often hypnotic set.

**SUNDAY**

The festival has a tradition of giving one of the heaviest, loudest bands of the festival the opening slot on the main stage on the last day and this year Scotland's **ATTICA RAGE** were given the job of blasting off the last day of the festival hangovers. Full of crashing riffs this biker metal band play no nonsense heavy rock, very fast, very loud and very heavy. The set amazingly included an Osmonds number!, but relax it was 'Crazy Horses'.

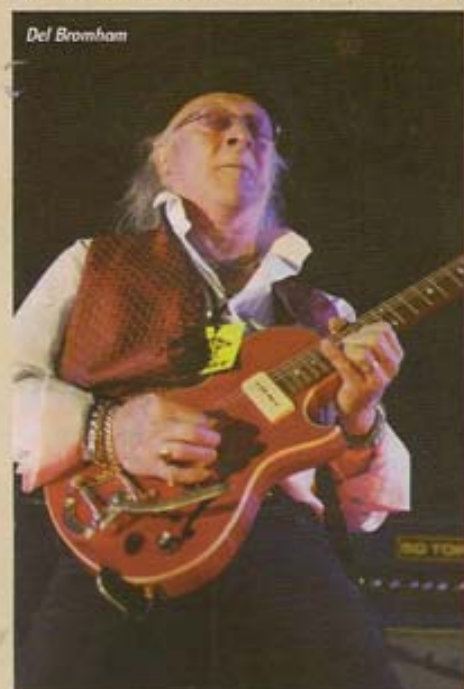
As with last year's **MOSTLY AUTUMN** set the band were again introduced on the main stage by seriously injured serviceman Ben Parkinson who this year brought along his Olympic Torch and of course he received a fantastic ovation.

A welcome return to the set for the stirring, powerful opener 'Winter Mountain' and the band were as always firing on all cylinders with a set full of fan favourites, including 'Evergreen', which never fails to hit the spot, and the show stopper 'Heroes Never Die'.

They showed their spiritual side on 'Simple Ways', and 'Questioning Eyes' was the usual showcase for Olivia's stunning vocals. From the latest studio album they rocked out with the solid beats of 'Drops Of the Sun'.

Two members of the band have recently left and will be very much missed so thanks for the Autumn memories to Anne-Marie Helder and Gavin Griffiths.

A highlight of previous festivals on stage two the **BEN POOLE BAND** were quite rightly upgraded to the main stage this year and with his stylishly turned out band including the backing singer ladies in smart black dresses Poole got the presentation down to a tee. One of the current



*Del Bromham*



*Attica Rage*



► crop of fabulous UK blues artists he dazzled the packed hall with both originals and his completely reworked/re-imagining of Hendrix classic 'Hey Joe'. A stylish and impressive set by this explosive blues guitarist/vocalist.

The festival have been trying to land **MAGNUM** for years and this year they finally got their man (band!) and with no ballad in site this was a melodic rock masterpiece, a set full of power and pomp with classics from start to finish, 'Vigilante', 'Rocking Chair', 'Days of No

Trust' and 'Kingdom of Madness' all rapturously received.

Front man Bob Catley is up there with the best of them and completely took control of the stage with guitarist extraordinaire (as well as songwriting genius) Tony Clarkin supplying the axe work.

A magnificent set and hope they return to the festival as they promised from the stage.

Even with only the one original member in the line up (John Steel on the drums) The

Animals still provided the perfect finish to the festival with a well performed quality set of classic tunes which included plenty of anecdotes and info on the band between numbers.

Plenty of dancing and singing along during the set with the audience knowing most of the words and the hits kept on a coming 'Baby Let Me Take You Home', 'Bright Lights Big City', 'Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood', 'We Gotta Get Out Of This Place' and of course and what a tune to close a festival 'House of the Rising Sun'.



#### IN CLOSING

Another successful year, fantastic bands - many more than mentioned above - and as always a friendly atmosphere, and this year hardly any rain.

One of my favourite stories from the festival is of a young would be music photographer (around 7 or 8 years of age I think) being treated to a couple of minutes in the pit taking snaps of Magnum. The band must have taken a shine to him as after the set he was back stage being photographed with the band - it's that kind of festival.

**WORDS AND PHOTOS: ANDREW LOCK**

The 2014 Cambridge Rock Festival will take place on 7th-10th August. More information about the event can be found on the festival website - [cambridgerockfestival.co.uk](http://cambridgerockfestival.co.uk) - where you can also order early bird tickets.

A full review of the CRS stage will be posted on our website.