

BRUM BEAT

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THEY'RE BUILDING

A MONSTER!



PLUS GELDOF TALKS ... AND TALKS ... AND TALKS
GAMBLING IN VEGAS ... HALL OR NOTHING

and THE BEST REGULARS IN THE MIDLANDS

Blue Notes

FANCY WOOTTON
Brum Beat's Blues Correspondent

Happy Bearthday

AFTER BLOWING OUT the candle on the Bearthday cake, about all we can manage these days, we wish Blues at The Bear a happy first and look forward to many more. Certainly the health of the Tuesday night club has been paralleled by a solid growth in local blues activity. Can't be a bad thing can it?

There's cause for celebration over the success of August's inaugural *Big City Blues* fest too. Personal highlights include *The Rhythmaires* and *Shuggie Otis* (replete with collapsing stage!) at The Junction and *Sherman Robertson* at Monday's brunch. Did anyone recognise the familiar face fronting *Brett Marvin & The Thunderbolts* during the festival ... it belonged to none other than one time Brewer's Droop frontman ... Big Bear's own Ron Watts! On the live scene:-

The Slide Area Blues Band have a solid October date sheet with gigs at The Hollybush, Norton Canes (1st); The Bull And Bladder, Brierley Hill (4); Oddfellows Club, Shifnal (21); The Kings Arms, Cleobury Mortimer (18); The Paget Arms, Wolverhampton (22); Mother Kelly's, Camp Hill, Darlaston (23); The Mitre, Stourbridge (24) and The Green Blues Club, The Green, Darlaston (30). The Holly Bush at Norton Canes also features *Back To The Blues*, Gin House and The Reverend Brown this month.

A highlight of the month is the local return of *Keith Christmas* at The Junction, Harborne on October 1st (catch Him At The Hollybush, Norton Canes on Nov 7th too). Featuring material from the excellent Run River Records set, 'Weatherman', the gig will be a blast. FW

And now, for a change, my guest, Sam Mitchell casts an ear over some recent CDs:- This month is an ace month for blues and R&B. Or rather an Ace month, as the esteemed label is determined to part blues fans from what little money they haven't earmarked for bar bills! THE BEST OF SLIM HARPO collates eighteen of his Excellency sides, mainly from the early sixties, as if to demonstrate the debt owed him by The Stones. JOHN LEE HOOKER/ GRAVEYARD BLUES is a fine score of tracks originally taped in Detroit for Sensation Records between 1948 and 1950. There must be more Hooker albums on the market than partworks on a newsagent's shelves. Not a complaint but how can anyone keep up with them? JOHNNY 'GUITAR' WATSON / LISTEN & I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE, STRANGER puts two LPs onto one compact disc. It's Fantasy material dating from the early seventies; string sweetened in part and given a contemporary, for the time, funky edge it's rescued for blues fans by bursts of incisive guitar work. ALBERT KING/KING DOES THE KING'S THINGS is subtitled 'Blues For Elvis' even though it was cut when Presley was alive. Produced by the MGs rhythm powerhouse of Duck Dunn and Al Jackson it's a creaky concept that has Albert covering Presley hits 'Hound Dog', 'Jailhouse Rock', 'Don't Be Cruel' et al.

So endemic is the blues at present that weirdo rockers THE CRAMPS have a blues EP available on Big Beat featuring covers of Lightnin' Slim, Walter Brown & The Alleycats and Captain Beefheart material. It's called 'Blues Fix'.

ARTHUR WOOD



SALLY BARKER & THE RHYTHM

DOWN AT THE JUNCTION in Harborne, KEITH CHRISTMAS with his new band, Weatherman, appears on October 1st to promote a similarly titled Run River album, whilst the lass from Leicester way, SALLY BARKER, also with a fine new album to sell, is booked in three weeks later.

The SID GRIFFIN led COAL PORTERS are confirmed for the same venue on October 15th. Griffin, now UK based, was formerly with The Long Ryders. He is Gram Parsons' biographer, all round good egg and possessor of an encyclopaedic memory, rock wise, that would prove a serious challenge to our own rock boffin MD!

With the appearance of their second Solid Records album imminent, THE SAW DOCTORS, that rootsy/pop combo from across the Irish Sea return for a date at The Hummingbird on Wednesday October 21st.

To tie in with the late September release of his first studio album in four years, JOE ELY is undertaking a nine date UK tour during early October. Unfortunately if you want to score some down home Austin, Texas rock the nearest stopovers on Joe's visit are Manchester International 2 (October 3rd) and Newport, King's Hotel (October 11th). Now enjoying his second stint with MCA, Joe's brilliant new album, 'Love And Danger' features ten cuts including a couple of

Robert Earl Keen Jr tunes; 'The Road Goes On Forever' from Keen's last studio set and the ballad 'Whenever Kindness Fails' that is destined to bring chart success for someone, someday. Joe co-produced the record with Tony Brown.

Now that Ely's long-time, eighties lead guitarist, David Grissom has moved on to join John Mellencamp's road band, this will be the first opportunity to view new boy Ian Moore. Meanwhile, that solid backline of Davis McLarty (drums) and Jimmy Pettit (bass) will be augmented on this tour by the addition of Reese Wynans on keyboards. Far from being a newcomer, Reese played on Joe's 1981 album, 'Musta Notta Gotta Lotta'.

The local folk clubs are back in action! October bookings include:- Friday 2nd: Tom McConville (Woodman, Kingswinford) / Geoff Higginbotham (Market Tavern, Moseley Street); Saturday 3rd: The Deighton Family (Red Lion, Kings Heath); Friday 9th: Singers Night at both The Woodman and Market Tavern; Saturday 10th: Jake Thackray (Woodman); Friday 16th: Bread 7 Roses (Market Tavern); Saturday 17th: Edward The Second (Red Lion); Friday 23rd: House Band (Woodman)/Singers Night (Market Tavern); Saturday 24th: Dick Gaughan (Red Lion); Friday 30th: Steve Tilston and Maggie Boyle (Woodman) / Mal Waite (Market Tavern); Saturday 31st: Steve Ashley Band (Red Lion).



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