

## REDHILLS REVIEWS SCRAPBOOK

**Atherstone Folk Club**

Write a public comment...

Carrie Laight  
Brilliant night x

Flossy McDougal  
Looks like a fab night!

Sue Sanders replied · 2 replies 2 h

Phillip Benson  
Admin · Top contributor · 2 hours ago

The Redhills! A fabulous mix of folk and rock that draws you in, and refuses to let go. That was what we experienced at the Red Lion in Atherstone on Wednesday night. A 70-minute set at the end of another excellent evening of music had everyone wanting more, and they did not disappoint.

Pete McParland got the evening off to a great start with Wes Hall joining in and then taking centre stage for his own set with the audience joining in with him!

Poachers Pocket, or two-thirds of them, then entertained us right royally, reminding us of songs that deserve a wider audience and that will, no doubt, become part of others' repertoire.

Pete McParland then came to my rescue in the absence of our final floor artist. His ability to simply get up there and perform without notice is remarkable.

Bruce Watson, an exceptional songster from Australia, on a tour of the UK, was our main support artist on the night. A lead artist in his own right, we were lucky to be able to see an engaging and thought-provoking performance.

The details of the remainder of his tour can be found here <https://www.brucewatsonmusic.com/>

PA: Apart from swapping one cable "just in case", I could sit back and envelope myself in the music whilst others were left with the nightmare of PA kit refusing to play nice. The professionals they are, however, meant that The Redhills quickly dealt with the issues and then proceeded to envelope everyone in their wall of sound.

A full setup with fiddle, acoustic guitar, bass, electric guitar and drums could not help but fill the room with joy. Everyone was on top form, and their own enjoyment at playing shone through. They will be back! Well, with me arranging the guest list, it's a guarantee.

**About**


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# An unmissable weekend

Fab Fest was back in style at the weekend at The Old Tramway in Stratford, a relief to music fans after that wonderful garden space had been threatened by a plan to build homes there, later withdrawn.

As per usual, plans and good intentions to witness as much of Saturday's Fab Fest entertainment as possible get dashed on the rocks of weekend priorities and routine chores resulting in our arrival at 6.15pm, just in time to have completely missed the excellent Evergreen (who I was fortunate to catch earlier in the week).

Drinks and bench seat secured we settle down for Scratchy Beard and their self-proclaimed 'Gypsy, jazzy, rootsy, folk'. The set-up of guitar, drums, cello and clarinet works up a real continental vibe with definite French and Eastern European flavours spicing up the pot.

The sprightly new single, *Maney*, perfectly encapsulates the sound, radiating a sunny jazz swing and an irresistible pop nous as pleasing as a cold beer in the summer heat.

It's the perfect soundtrack to the warm early evening, the sun still in the sky and a friendly, relaxed atmosphere across The Tramway beer garden.

Recently ranked in the top 3 of Disney songs, the set closes with a hip shaking shuffle through The Jungle Book's *I Wanna Be Like You*. King Louie and Baloo would be going wild.

At 7.30pm, The Redhills take the stage and the musical gear box lurches up from third to sixth as they kick off an almighty folk rock roar as furious fiddle battles it out with some heavy, heavy guitar.

It's like Bellowhead facing off with Eddie Van Halen. But it works a treat and pretty soon there are youngsters pulling some fresh dance moves in time to the stomp.

This could certainly have been a headline set as the jigs and reels entice more spontaneous bursts of dancing front and centre, and if singer and fiddle player Nick Ellison can get away with wearing a pirate hat while bowing the fiddle like a man possessed, and hopping on one leg, then count me in. It's great.

A blast through the traditional *Byker Hill* keeps the tempo high and a cover of Dropkick Murphy's *I'm Shipping Up To Boston* manages to be more raucous than the original, a feat in itself. As the sun went down, The Redhills really started to fire the party up.

For reasons unknown, advertised headliners The Big Ginge Blues Band are a no-show but blues rock power trio The Fearless Scoundrels ably step up to the plate delivering a no-nonsense set of covers from the likes of Cream/ Robert Johnson (*Crossroads*), Chuck Berry (*Nadine*), Small Faces (*All Or Nothing*) and a blistering run through Omar and the Howlers' *Hard Times In The Land Of Plenty*. Think American blues rock (ZZ Top, Stevie Ray Vaughan) with a healthy dose of Brit pub rock (Dr Feelgood, Eddie and the Hot Rods) and you're in the zone. Quick-fire slide guitar solos, barked vocals from the bottom of a bottle and a rhythm section as tight as 32 inch jeans around a 36 inch waist and you've got the picture.

Fab indeed and the riffs kept coming as people started to wend their way home after such a feast of free music.

Massive mention should go to the mighty Tori Rushton who has kept the faith and belief in her idea and seen it blossom and grow over five years to become a 'must-do' event on the Stratford calendar, and to all the volunteers, helpers, stall holders, Welcome Radio people and everyone else involved whose efforts ensure Fab Fest's continued success. Bravo to all.

Note to self: Next year stuff the weekend routine of shopping and DIY, get down to FabFest and make a day of it.

Karl Walker

■ The music was across both Saturday and Sunday, Organiser Tori Rushton said: "Even though it's a mighty work and effort to put Fab Fest on I reap the benefits when I see all ages all parts of different community styles come together for a weekend of live music with local bands, lovely stalls with local crafts and cakes, plus the local pub putting on local beers and ales. "It is truly magical to see and be part of it. Community spirit at its best."

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**PETITIONS**

**10 PRIZE CROSSWORD**



Phillip Benson

Admin Top contributor · 21 April 2022 · 🌐

Last night's regular Atherstone Folk Club meeting was a roaring success. After Becky Mills, our booked guest artist, was forced to cancel having been stricken with Covid, we were extremely lucky to have [Kevin Dempsey](#) as our guest on the night.

The FB mix-up didn't seem to have affected the audience numbers, with the room full. We are having some more chairs brought in for the meeting in May.

Finger in The Jar started the evening at 7:30; Anne and [Stephen Beeson](#) returning to the fold after a protracted absence forced on Steve.

[Wes Hall](#) could not attend, so [Stephen Boyer](#) volunteered to entertain us with three well-chosen songs. Steve2 will be with us in the near future.

Bridgette Wilkins arrived a little late, delayed by a minor family problem, but this did not stop her endearing herself to our regulars and newbies alike. A standard and a couple of not-so-well-known folk songs were very well received.

Kev's first set was next. As usual, his guitar playing was of the highest standard, with many of the audience gasping at his supreme skills.

After the break (thank you, audience, for your generosity) The Redhills Lite had the place rocking, with a 30 minute support spot for our guest artist. This was not the first time they have played at AFC, the first being about three years ago. This was also not the last time we will be able to enjoy their infectious music; just waiting for them to choose a date for next year.

[Kevin Dempsey](#) then closed the evening with a vastly enjoyable second set. His laid back approach and song selection made for a memorable night. We will be asking him back for 2023, of course; watch this space.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to a great night, and thanks, again, to the staff at the Red Lion who cannot be faulted in their attention to detail.

Finally having **The Redhills** as our featured guests was one of those cancelled/rearranged things which all of us despaired of ever staging at times during the Pandemic. But due to patience and dogged determination, finally we got them all up there assembled on that mighty stage. A stage they filled: indeed they filled the auditorium too. Good to see a good electric band at NFC playing good electric folk. :drum kit: electric bass and lead: fiddle: acoustic guitars and all kinds of other bells gongs and whistles kept the audience on their toes. Literally at times, as people began DANCING! (I *know!*). The band were also dancing on stage during certain times: their energy and enthusiasm was infectious.



Their arrangements were clever and well thought out. The exchanges between instruments were ingenious and skilfully executed: they are all clearly excellent musicians. Their two sets were a joyful demonstration of good folk music delivered with style and aplomb. Go and see them if you haven't already. Highly recommended.

Thanks to the support acts, to John B. Smith and Max for a



# Dancing in the Precinct at MotoFest

Who needed to look at cars when there was non-stop sunshine and lively folk music to enjoy in Coventry's Upper Precinct last weekend?



Click on each image to expand (photos by Pete Willow)

In fact, both music stages proved to be popular attractions. The CVFolk stage had some interesting moments, for example when a Salvation Army band burst into tune a stone's throw away during Sunday's opening set by the excellent **Firedaze**. The technical crew still got a great sound out of the duo, and the audience appreciated the first song by follow-up harmony singers **Thrup'ny Bits'** own Sally Army song, producing enthusiastic chorus singing of 'Away away with rum, by gum!'

The weekend featured an all-star line-up of local acts, good enough to grace any festival, playing for free and we'll be publishing more photos of the event on this website soon. But here's a sneak shot of some dancing inspired by the music of exuberant folk-rockers **The Redhills**. ...



But Then The ☁ hit a ☁ approached so instead of cancelling the event like many others unfortunately had too. We as a team created another stage inside with PA from the medieval times and it worked better than we could have thought. The RedHills played to a very enthusiastic crowd who danced to every moment of their set a huge Thankyou. But The Upsiders were to close the night in style in what for me has been the best night at Jagfest in the 3 years I've been involved. It was a truly splendid experience. Well done to all involved and hugs to Jean whose nearing 80 years old and danced both Friday and Saturday a legend x  
Steve Taggart, Travis Waddell, Fran Hunter. The Perfect Team



 Steve Taggart  
9 July · 🌐

massive shout out to everyone who supported JAGFEST yesterday even tho lightning was coming the two last acts came and played inside when we would of paid you anyway as not your fault. WOW. how great you both are the @redhills and the my favs the @UPSIDERS cheers guys and of course Paul Sanders and @ Fran Hunter

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1 comment

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Paul Sanders

The RedHills and The Upsiders both getting a lot of love today from many folk

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John Kearney

20 April 2017 · Lutterworth · 🌐

Time for a slightly more considered view of last night at The Rose . Top night all round with large receptive audience and some top quality music. All the performers were on form and the audience joined in with gusto when required. Special mention for David Parr and his lovely setting of "The Roads". However, the main kudos go to the amazing Redhills. They were simply stunning. They played a set of , mostly, traditional music but done in such a fresh and enjoyable way that I spent most of the evening grinning like a child who's been given the keys to a sweetshop. Oh, and they rock!

The new venue has a really nice atmosphere and the room sounds good both from the stage and the audience.