editorial: august 2009



Our featured covered artist, US guitarist and singer **Coco Montoya**, is headlining at *The Great British R & B Festival*, at Colne in Lancashire, on the August Bank Holiday weekend. He has lived the blues life, on the road with Albert Collins and then with John Mayall and as a bandleader in his own right. He is currently recording a new album, which Keb' Mo is producing. As he explained to me on the phone, Kevin is making him concentrate on the vocals. Coco is also appearing at *Harvest Time Blues Festival* in Monaghan and will be touring in Europe and UK in September.

Big Boy Bloater is a UK guitarist, singer and songwriter. When he is not doing that, he is a freelance sound engineer in studios and at gigs. He told me, when I called him up, that he is also working on material for a new album. He heads various line-ups and will be playing some high profile events this Summer and Autumn. His vinyl EP is our competition prize this month.

Sam Kelly was a founder of Cymande, a very successful recording band some forty years ago. Many other bands have sampled their material since then. Recently Sam and his Station House band plus Cymande singer Jimmy Lindsay got together to play Cymande material, at The Grey Horse in Kingston Upon Thames. Two other members of the band, Patrick Patterson and Steve Scipio, turned up to watch. In this issue, Sam talks to his friend and Station House percussionist Jerome Marcus about the band and the gig.

Our e-letter this month is from **Debra Giles**, the singer in the **Debbie Giles Band**. Debra was a stage singer in musicals but the lure of rock 'n' roll got the better of her. Front woman is a good description for her; rock chick is another.

Our featured venue is **Charlotte Street Blues**. It is fast becoming our favourite London venue. Check the web site for information about top blues artists playing ticketed events there this Summer and Autumn and come along to the Wednesday blues jam, which, like most nights, is free. You cannot miss the blue glow as you walk up Charlotte Street. Shake hands with Kevin, on the door, and say you saw him in *Blues In Britain* magazine.

We have festival reports from Warrington, Pump Bottom Farm and Worthenbury plus live reviews of gigs around the country. Thanks to all our reviewers and photographers, once again, and to our readers. You are all keeping the blues alive! - Fran Leslie

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UK inland (includir	ng postage)
£45.00 for 12 issues (1 y	vear) £27.50 for 6 issues (6 months
Overseas (by airmail j	orinted paper rate postage)
Please pay by Sterling or El	uro cheque or International Money Orde
EU Europe	
£55.00 for 12 issues	£32.00 for 6 issues
Zone 1 (USA, Canada	and rest of Europe)
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£77.00 for 12 issues	£44.00 for 6 issues
All new subsci	ribers receive a FREE CD
with	the first issue.

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front cover photograph

Coco Montoya by Peter Berger www.peterberger.at

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deadlines for contributions Vol 1 Issue 93 - 5th August 2009 Vol 1 Issue 94 - 5th September 2009

Printed and mailed by

The Magazine Printing Company Plc 1082 Mollison Avenue Enfield EN3 7NT UK www.magprint.co.uk