

arts in leicestershire



- | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Front page | News | Feature articles | Comedy | Literature and poetry | Music guide | Theatre and plays | Dance | Visual arts films and photography | Architecture | Help | Search | Blog |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|

In this section

[Festivals home page](#)[Download home page](#)[Download on Friday](#)[Download on Saturday](#)[Download on Sunday](#)[Magazine contents](#)

Page last updated:
Sunday, 15-Aug-2010

Feature article: Download Festival 2012 - Friday 8th June

This page is part of the the [festivals section](#)

Download Festival, Castle Donington, 2012

Friday 8th June at Download.

[Our coverage of Download day by day](#)

Saturday

Sunday

On this page: | [Quireboys](#) | [Reachback](#) | [Little Angles](#) | [Europe](#) | [The Safety Fire](#) | [Fear Factory](#) | [NoFX](#) | [Machine Head](#) | [Chase & Status](#) | [Prodigy](#) |

Kevin Gaughan reports with Pete Coombs.

Photos and videos are by © Kevin Gaughan unless otherwise stated.

Advertising

**Support Arts in
Leicester social
enterprise**

**help us to help
the arts**



After a long delay caused by safety fears over the waterlogged fields, the eager and good humoured headbangers were finally let into the main arena.

Quireboys, second stage at 14:30

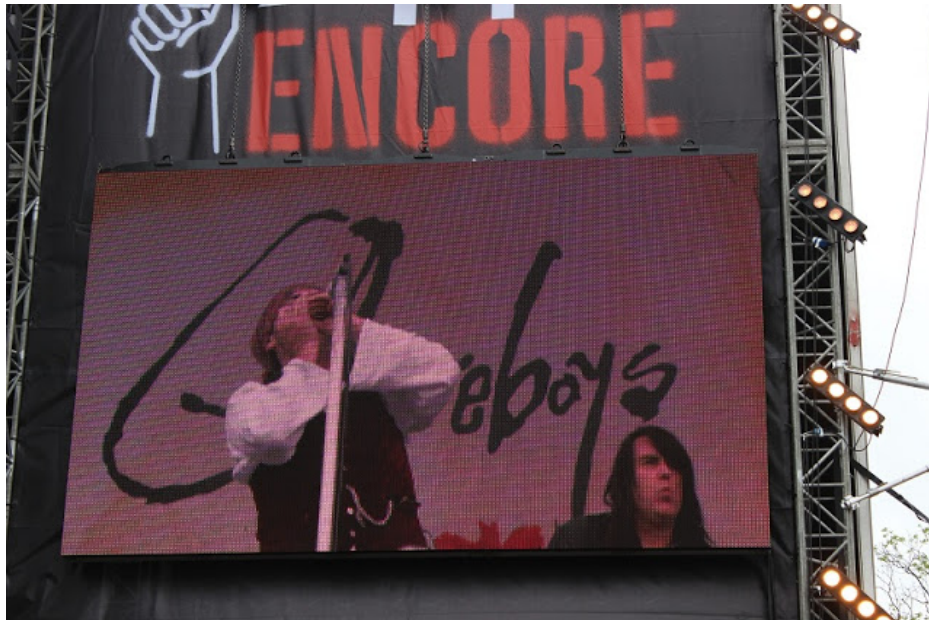


Having known the Quireboys from when they toured the London circuit, including the legendary Marquee club, over 20 years ago, I was looking forward to seeing them in the hard rock festival of all hard rock festivals.

This was my first band of Download 2012, mud everywhere, the watery kind, not really slippery, just brown and wet. The Quireboys had no problem in attracting a big crowd to the outdoor main stage 2.

They played a number of their old classics including *Hey You* which reached number 14 in the national charts many, many years ago. They entertained the crowd with their distinctive Rock n' Roll songs.

The crowd were loving it, too, singing along to most of their songs and generally splodging around as they attempted to dance. A fine start to my weekend.



Reachback Red Bull Bedroom Jam stage at 15:30



Reachback, a four-piece female fronted pop/rock band from Essex who I last saw play Glastonbudget, Leicestershire in 2011. Impressing me then, I was thrilled to be able to get to see them again at Download 2012 and see how they were coming along.

First thing I noticed was that Ruby, on vocals, had changed her hair colour from red to pink and was sporting a glittery union jack dress, which was great. I thought the rest of the band could have done with smartening up a bit, too!

Packing the Bedroom Jam marquee, they performed their powerful, energetic and rhythmic selection of original rock songs, with the occasional cover, *Price Tag* by Jessie J, being one.

Not many people in the big tent knew Reachback but, by the end of their powerful set, they were all converts. Quite simply, since I saw them last year, they had clearly reached the next level and were worthy of a slot at our most prestigious of rock festivals.

After their performance, people spoke to me about how impressed they were with what they had just seen.



[Watch Reachback perform at the festival](#) | [and this one](#).

Europe, Second stage at 16:10

I was looking forward to seeing Europe on the second stage at 16:10, but, due to an aircraft delay and various traffic problems they arrived just before the end of their set!

Little Angels, 17:15 Second Stage



Little Angels, a five-piece band from Scarborough, were very popular in the early 90s and played their farewell gig 1994, splitting up at the height of their popularity.

Their appearance this year at Download marks their long-overdue return onto the British rock scene. It was clear they had not been forgotten, the crowd was full, friendly, enthusiastic and vocal.

Little Angels had no problems in getting the crowd to dance to their guitar-laden, catchy rock songs that you just can't help but wiggle those hips to! Full of energy and very appreciative of the fact they were playing at Download, they put on a great show - good to have 'em back!



[Watch Little Angels perform at the festival |](#)

The Safety Fire - 20:15 Bedroom Jam stage



A five-piece band from London, played a their powerful, well sung, progressive rock to a packed Bedroom Jam Stage. These guys were hard and heavy, yet rhythmical, with rapturous guitar playing, courtesy of Joaquin Ardiles and Derya Nagle.

The music was a good mix of in-yer-face, testicle grabbing

screamo with some subtle stuff, too, well put together producing some fantastically powerful songs in an all round impressive performance.



[Watch The Safety Fire perform at the festival |](#)

Fear Factory - Main Stage

Playing a mix of many years worth of quality music, including a couple from their new album (which sound amazing!), the band are still as hard as ever and the crowd immediately went ballistic. Maybe, in all honesty Burton's vocals were a little weaker than I had hoped; the band still got me hyped up for what promised to be an amazing weekend of music.

NoFX - Main Stage

A bantericious set from an aged pop punk band, NoFX create exactly what was expected of them, humorous from the outset and completely tasteless. "The Megadeth of Punk Rock" (as Fat Mike describes) played an array of classic sing along punk, 'Bob' was an absolute treat, as was 'Eat the meek'.

Funny, Energetic and a huge amount of audience participation made for a truly enjoyable set.

Machine Head - Main Stage



To a chorus of " Machine F***ing Head", from the tens of thousands of fans, Machine Head are greeted to the stage and once Rob Flynn screams "I AM HELL", the crowd erupts and the circle pits begin.

A band that will always go down amazingly at Download, MH provided us with 55 minutes of record quality groove metal. Backed by Dave McClain, one of metal's most underrated drummers, the band kept the circle pits spinning with some amazing songs.

Personally, I was a little disappointed that their set was filled with songs only from the latest two albums except *Imperium* from *Through the ashes of Empires*.

Where were the classics like *Dividian*? Needless to say, an amazing set, by an amazing band, with the added accomplishment of breaking the world record for most circle pits (previously 23) to *Aesthetics of Hate*.

Chase and Status - Main stage



With a high chance of failing to meet the weekend's set genre, many people have been heard complaining about Download's choice to put this band on, however, with this in mind Chase and Status came out with guns blazing.

An eruption of sound wetted everyone's dub step whistle and before the first song had reached the chorus the thousands watching delved into an enigmatic groove, all of a sudden it doesn't matter about silly things like genre.

To be honest, Chase and Status provided just as heavy a sound, if not heavier, than others hitting the main stage. A really strong set of well chosen songs ended up a highlight to my day.

Who says you can't mosh to a bit of wobble bass?

Prodigy - Main Stage



With the hints of sun we experienced on Friday having finally left us for the day, the main stage lit up with an impressive lighting rig. Although painfully delayed coming onto stage, (especially after C&S getting everyone buzzing), Prodigy exploded into our ears!



A reminder of the sheer talent and writing ability that they have, hit followed hit followed hit. This band could do no wrong! The very impressive crowd - all attempting to get their feet moving in the sticky mud - realised that Prodigy's songs were huge, with a bass that cracks ribs and an amazing ability to create a live sound so close to the originals.

Yes, ok, Maxim said "where my people at?", far too many times, and Keith's mic was sometimes lost in the mix, but who cares! Prodigy owned the stage! Amazing!



Altogether now "Mud, mud, glorius mud ..."

[Our coverage of Download day by day](#)

[**Friday**](#)

[**Saturday**](#)

[**Sunday**](#)

[**Other pages you might like:**](#)

[Our coverage of Glastonbudget Festival 2012](#)

[How we cover festivals](#)

[Our coverage of Download Festival 2011](#)

