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Download Festival, Castle Donington, 2012

Sunday 10th June at Download.

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Kevin Gaughan Reports with Pete Coombs.

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What's this big glowing ball in the sky? Finally a rough weekend gets some sun and it doesn't take long for the festival weathered punters to find a comfy spot to relax and take in the final days activities.



The Minutes Bedroom Jam Stage at 17:50



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The Minutes, a three-piece rock band from Ireland encouraged a healthy-sized audience into the capacious Bedroom Jam stage. Loving their rapidly-paced indie rock, more lightweight than most of the bands I've seen this weekend but providing a welcome break from the hardcore and screamo that has been on the menu so far.

The Minutes were absolutely fantastic to watch and produced a good quality, really catchy set of memorable material. These guys are quality musicians producing quality songs and looking natural on stage, a good show and went down well with the growing audience.



[Watch The Minutes perform at the festival](#)

August Burns Red, Second Stage at 13:20

August Burns Red did a fine job at waking up Download's sleepy faces; a slightly lethargic start to a set with some passive nodding from the crowd is soon smashed to pieces with August Burns Red's powerful break downs kicking us all in the teeth. The ever growing crowd are drawn in by the huge volumes this band creates and with Jake Luhrs constantly thanking the audience for their attendance the crowd make this a very pleasing set.

The Dirty Youth Bedroom Jam Stage at 18:50



Having had a much needed break, as I was sitting on the almost dry mud outside the Bedroom Jam marquee, a band was just starting up. They sounded fast and furious and all I could see was big, red hair thrashing around. People seemed to be heading into the marquee with a matter of urgency, being the clever sort, I worked out if I sat there much longer I'd be stood at the back watching a load of nodding heads.

So I ventured in, to see what was going down. I found The Dirty Youth on stage, a female-fronted, five piece punk/rock band from South Wales. It was punk and it was rock, with rip-roaring guitar solos and a mosh-tastic performance, provided by singer Danni Monroe and the three guitarists; Matt Bond, Luke Padfield and Leon Watkins.

This band look like they're having a fantastic time on stage. The songs, too, are sheer quality, in your face, non-stop rock rhythms with punk attitude. The crowd loved them, too. A band to watch out for, I'll be making it my business to make sure I see them around.



[Watch The Dirty Youth performing at the festival](#)

Saint Jude Jagermeister Stage at 18:15



Saint Jude, normally a six-piece, rock n' roll band from London, that today were performing an acoustic set on the Jagermeister stage. Fronted by Lynne Jackaman with her amazing, full-bodied and perfectly rounded voice, she had the audience entranced on the slower songs and clapping and dancing to the faster ones.

Saint Jude put in a fantastic performance with Lynne's spectacular voice. Although on the slow songs, occasionally there was a noticeable amount of warbling in her voice. I don't know if that's how it normally sounds, but it grates on me after a while. Sometimes it's a sign of the singer trying too hard. Other than that, she put in a memorable performance with an incredible voice.



[Watch Saint Jude performing at the festival.](#)

Black Label Society, Main Stage at 15:00

On to the big guns! Black Label Society brought the start of what promised to be a historical evening of Download goodness. Hmm ... Wyld, obviously an absolute legend, but, in all honesty, seeming a little uninterested in his main stage appearance.

I suppose the length of a daytime set never really lends itself to the huge bands with years of albums to chose from, especially when they use a large proportion of it for a fairly mediocre guitar solo. Don't get me wrong, BLS's songs couldn't have a bad word said against them, all brilliantly performed and getting the crowd really pumped. It just felt like the boys never really let go, no real personality came through and they were easily forgotten once they left the stage. A real shame, as it was band I was very excited to see.

Lamb of God, Main Stage at 16:15

A huge buzz filled the main stage as we awaited Lamb of God. The anticipation was apparent; the keen Downloaders creating a circle pit before the band even took to the stage, showing the love this crowd had for one of the top heavy metal bands.

Desolation began Lamb of God's set and the circle pits grew and grew. *Brutal* doesn't even begin to explain it. Lamb of God tore the crowd to pieces with their sheer power and brute force. Songs from all eras of the band's career kept fans, new and old, very happy and the bone smashing

Laid to Rest along with *Redneck* ensured absolute butchery in the pits. The set closed with *Black Label*, sealing the deal that Lamb of God are untouchable when it comes to crowd-battering metal.

Megadeth, Main Stage at 17:30

A slightly more weathered looking than usual Megadeth hit the stage with their never-failing top flight sound. As tight as tight can be, Dave and crew sound perfect doing exactly what is expected of them; mixing the newness of *Public Enemy No. 1* with many classics including *Hanger 18*, making for an amazing set and a welcome vocal chord warm up for hugeness that was to follow.

Soundgarden, Main Stage, 19:00

Over 15 years we have waited for this musical giant to grace our British shores and what an event they have chosen to make it happen! Vocalist Chris Cornell greeted the crowd with a walk around the stage, judging his surroundings and taking in the enormous number of eager fans.

Cornell's voice is nothing but perfect, incredible power and prowess hold each of the band's brilliant songs, with style all backed by an instrumental master class. Soundgarden have huge flexibility which has been shown through their many years of class albums and we got to see it all.

From the revelation of Grunge with songs like *The Day I Tried To Live* to the more modern rockier stuff of *Outshined* and *Jesus Christ Pose*, the band played hit after hit, keeping the whole crowd entranced. *Rusty Cage* and *Black Hole Sun*, being possibly the band's most well known song, went down an absolute storm, with the hundred thousand strong crowd all singing along.

Black Sabbath, Main Stage, at 21:00

A black veil covered the main stage, adding mystery to the masses, and adding total mystery to what Black Sabbath had in store. After a long wait the veil finally falls and, with a huge cheer, the minimalist stage is presented; a drum kit, a couple of relatively small amps and a microphone made for a 'return to roots' feeling set up.



Black Sabbath brought download to a close, on the main stage.

Ok, we were all excited about a complete Black Sabbath line up, but with Bill Ward pulling out in late May, it fell upon Ozzy's drummer Tommy Crufetos to sit in.

However, this still left us with three of the most important figures in heavy metal ... right there ... a few feet in front of me. Oh my! Opening with the supernatural *Black Sabbath* from their self-titled album of 42 years ago, Ozzy and crew were evidently as hyped as we were for their return to Donington.

Tony Lommi and Geezer Butler stood fairly motionless throughout the set, like true gents, letting their musical talent speak for itself while Ozzy, with his wiggly run, used the full stage to engage with his army of metal followers.

The set was packed with absolute brilliance, a journey through the creation of heavy metal; *N.I.B*, *Snowblind*, *War Pigs*, *The Wizard* - the list goes on! All a reminder that without these guys the world of metal would be a whole different place.

Ozzy Osbourne reminded us that Tony Lommi is "the real Iron Man" and the crowd roared with heart-warming respect for the guitar legend. The Birmingham boys left the stage and the masses took a chance to breathe while awaiting the inevitable encore.

When they returned, the intro to *Sabbath Bloody Sabbath* built up to the enormous *Paranoid*. A perfect finisher for truly one of the best moments of my life, what better way for Download to celebrate its 10 year anniversary?

Sabbath ... We Love You!



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