

# Arts in Leicester

On-line magazine for arts, entertainment, culture and heritage

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## Leicester's Riverside Festival, 2012

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*The Riverside Festival has been a feature of Leicester's summer for several years. This year the weather was good and thousands of people turned out to enjoy this free event organised by Leicester City Council.*

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Report by Trevor Locke with photos by ArtsIn and Harjinder Ohbi.



### Music on the Park

The morning was overcast but dry as the rain of recent days subsided and as the day progressed, eventually the sun came out. Held by the banks of the river Soar, the annual festival celebrates music and boats and provides the public with a fun day out with lots to see and do.

Our main interest was the music and the main stage offered a varied line-up that suited most tastes. At the other end of the site, the acoustic tent featured a line-up of local talent and clearly music fans were constantly on the move between the two stages.

### Saturday 9th June

We would like to have covered everything that happened over the two days of the festival but with some of our key reporters being away at other events, we did as much as we could but inevitably missed some acts. Here is our coverage of what we did manage to see.

### The Acoustic Tent

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Leicester singer and song writer **Prash Gor** presented a delightful set of his own songs. One of the rising stars of the local acoustic scene, Prash Gor has appeared at many gigs and festivals this year and has always delighted audiences with his fine voice and attractive songs.

**Kiera Lawson** played but we were covering the main stage but she said she had a "fantastic day performing at the Riverside Festival." Check out Kiera's songs [on Facebook](#) or listen to her recording [Straight Down to the Ground](#) on Soundcloud.



**Siobhan Mazzie** was one of several acoustic artists appearing on the acoustic stage today, most of whom were local singers.





Photo © [Harjinder Ohbi](#)

Leicester singer Siobhan Mazzie has had a good year so far. Her impressive singing and song writing talents have been on show from large festivals to intimate gigs in local venues. Everyone agrees that she is now one of the most celebrated female vocalists in our local area. Her performance in the acoustic tent today was particularly enjoyable.



Photo © [Harjinder Ohbi](#)

The acoustic stage was next to the bar provided by The Marstons Brewery. The bar staff added a dash of verve with their festival hats.



Leicester singer **Michael Vickers** sang a selection of his own songs and some covers. His lively performance and vibrant music was delivered in a fine strong voice and gave the audience a delightful experience in the Acoustic tent. A good all rounder, Michael appeared last weekend at the Glastonbudget Festival where he performed in front of an audience in excess of 500 people at midnight. "I really enjoyed it, although I had not had any sleep for a long time" he told me.



Singer **Morton Piercewright's** strong voice delivered an ear-pleasing set. Vibrant and engaging, his performance was altogether enjoyable.

### **The Main Stage**

**The Anteloids**





The Anteloids opened the main stage with their brilliant musicianship, playing just one song, which lasted for 15 minutes. An impressive blend of psychedelic shoegaze laced with lots of electro-synth colours and complex guitar parts, it was an impressive piece of orchestral rock.



Photo © [Harjinder Ohbi](#)

Opening the main stage, The Anteloids, from Rugby, had won their place at the festival by being the runners up at the 2012 Original Bands Showcase.

[Read our report of the 2012 OBS.](#)

**Mick Ridgway's Mojo Hand**



Photo © [Harjinder Ohbi](#)

From Leicester's thriving rhythm and blues scene, Mick Ridgway's Mojo Hand gave the audience a very enjoyable set of jazz and blues.



The band's session of upbeat jazz tunes drew a large and appreciative crowd to the main stage area.

**Resin**





Photo © [Harjinder Ohbi](#)

Resin, from Hinckley, put on a superb set of their own songs and captured and held the attention of a large crowd of music fans. A resoundingly good set saw lead singer James Botha doing one huge leap on the stage. A real festival-style performance.



The crowd listening to Resin. You could see heads nodding in the crowd and by the end of the set the whole of the stage area had filled with people.



It was good to see a number of local artists in the crowd as Resin played. Singer and promoter Rhett Barrow (centre) was among them with band musician and singer Daz Lynch (right.)



Singer Alex Freeman (in the spectacles) was there with some of his friends.





Singer Siobhan Mazzie also liked Resin's performance. We saw her moshing out at the front and clearly having a great time with her mates.

### **Midnight Wire**

Leicester band Midnight Wire brought their enjoyable set of pop rock songs to the stage, attracting a large audience. As they were playing the clouds parted and the sun began to shine.



Photo © [Harjinder Ohbi](#)

Lots of young people were at the front to see Midnight Wire's performance. On top form, the band performed superbly well.



Midnight Wire won the 2012 Original Bands Showcase and part of their prize for this was to play at the Riverside Festival. Later in the year they will be appearing at the Summer Sundae festival.



The members of Midnight Wire are Alex Van Roose - Vocals/Guitar, Chris Merriman - Guitar/Vocals/Keys, Arjun Johal - Bass/Vocals, Nik Green - Drums.





Midnight Wire's songs are full of catchy tunes and they performance with a lot of energy to deliver them.



The other attractions



Photo © [Harjinder Ohbi](#)

The origins of the Riverside festival lie in the craft that ply the waters of the Grand Union Canal, that runs through Leicester. Boats of all kinds gathered on the canal.



Photo © [Harjinder Ohbi](#)

Among the many stalls at the Festival was this one, where painter **Bhavini Gor** had some of her work on display.





Photo © Harjinder Ohbi

A large cycle hire facility offered the chance for people to take a bit of exercise for the day.

### Sunday 10th June



The sunshine continued today; even the cloudy moments were almost welcoming as a relief from the hot sun. On the water was a good place to be for the aquatic few who were lucky enough to get out on it.



The main stage brought a variety of music delights, starting with Leicester band **Paddywax**. The seven musicians brought a variety of instruments to the stage including a violin, hand drums, flute, harmonica, Cajun box drum, guitar and bass.



When ever I see this band they seem to have different musicians. There is Sam Winterton on the Cajun Box Drum; Sam usually plays drums in Leicester Band Smokin' The Profit. Who ever is on the stage, they always play delightful music and today was no exception.



Paddywax's main members are Ciara Green Fly, Khalil Amin, Sean Clutterham, Monkey Man, Lisa Beggie. [Check them out on Facebook.](#)





Plenty of people gathered in the main stage area to listen to the band, including some well known faces from the local music scene.



Ah there's Hilary Fox on bass, looking as fresh as a daisy after last night's triumphant appearance when her band Smokin' The Profit won the *Wanna be a rockstar* competition. Now that's dedication for you!



*Sing for Water* saw a large number of performers take to the stage to support the charity *WaterAid*. Eleven children from Shaftesbury School played on their steel drums and a large crowd of mums and dads gathered in front of the stage to see them.



*WaterAid* was one of several environmental issues that were present at the festival. A very large choir squeezed into the stage to sing, ending their concert with *Down by the riverside*.





The choir was joined by Una May Olomolaiye, from Leeds. The Jamaican born singer is widely known for her work with choirs and her singing workshops.

You can find out more about the [work of WaterAid](#) from their [web site](#).



The Martha Bean Band has been making waves on the Leicester music scene for some time. On stage with Martha were a key board player, a violinist, a viola player, a double bass player, drummer, bassist and guitarists.



Martha's EP *The State of the Art* has received great acclaim.

### **The Acoustic Tent on Sunday.**

The line-up in the acoustic tent was brought together by promoter Paul Collins.

In the acoustic tent, a series of artists brought the audience a line-up of quality singers, starting with **Mike Kerslake**



Mike Kerslake is or was a member of Leicester band The Rassoodocks. Mike told us that the band is undergoing a transformation at the moment and plans to re-launch itself over the summer. Mike is a fine solo singer and gave us a set of lively and enjoyable songs.





Singer **Ollie Charles** performed on the Acoustic stage today. Ollie used to be the lead singer in Hinckley band The Steptoos, one of my favourite bands when they were active a couple of years ago, before they called it a day. Ollie is also a fine solo artist and I have seen him performing before a few times.



Singer **Stephen Walker**, from Leicester band Stephen and the Heathens. Bright songs and a bright delivery.



The wonderful **Charlie Jones** took to the stage to captivate the audience with her lovely voice and her equally lovely lovely songs. When not performing as a solo singer, Charlie sings with her band Charlie & the Martyrs.



Singer **Calvin Jeffrey** was there.





Duo **Preacher and the Bear** performed at the Acoustic tent. I had seen them before several times, as when they performed at the OBS Unplugged show at the Musician.



The musicians in the duo were Simon 'Preacher' Buck - Organ, Piano, Vocals, Percussion and Tom 'The Bear' McCormack - Guitars, Vocals, Bass Drum, Hi Hat, Harmonica, Percussion.



[See them on Facebook.](#)

Mikey K and Danny Greet were also on the bill but sadly we missed them.

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