

20 March 2009

NME's got nothing on me

..... Mrs Vesuvio and I treated ourselves to a Sunningwell event in March - a musical one. As previously mentioned, Sunningwell's musical credentials are high. Thursday nights at the Flowing Well, the Sunningwell festival, Opera Anywhere...

However, this was a special event, not at the pub but at the village hall. '**Skin the Cat**', a 9-piece R&B/Soul covers band entertained a large proportion of the village on 20th March.

Adopts music critic persona Four of the nine pieces were brass - from memory, tenor, alto and soprano sax plus trumpet - the other five were drums, lead guitar, bass guitar, lead vocal and backing vocal. This was an assured performance. I knew nothing of this group before going and I must admit, when I first saw the posters for **Skin the Cat**, I thought there was a new evening class in survival skills at the Art School.

The lead singer (apologies - I don't remember her name) I did recogniseand heard her sing before, I knew we were in for a good performance. She commanded the stage and her vocal strength and charisma quickly won over the audience. In short, this was a powerful and professional vocal performance.

Every member of the band played their part, the back line were solid and kept excellent rhythm - never rushing the songs so that the audience (who gradually warmed up as the BYO wine worked its magic) were able to dance to every number. Lead guitar stepped forward with some well-placed solos and was generally polished throughout.

The show-stealers were the brass section though. Combined with the lead singer, they blew away the cobwebs from the village hall, and the audience, and delivered a fantastic performance. They were tight, they were confident, they were cool (in their Blues Brothers shades) and most importantly, they played very well. A brass section like that adds an extra dimension to a covers band and takes it to another level.

I'm not sure how often these guys play together but I got the impression they are from various locations and probably don't get to all practice together regularly. You wouldn't have known that though and the moments where they successfully improvised during some of the songs suggested they are all high quality musicians.

Overall, I'd describe the performance as '**professional, powerful and very entertaining**' and would recommend the band to anyone thinking of booking them for an event.

Disclaimer: I am not linked to the band in any way, but if anyone books them after reading this, I will gladly accept a referral fee of 20% of the fee or a pint at the pub, whichever is the higher value.

Posted by Vesuvio
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