



WELCOME

*The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said¹
And what they almost say in brief
Is Stainsby Festival lies ahead.*



And why are we getting all poetic? ...

Yep, it's because it's that time of year when the Friends of Stainsby Festival Newsletter thuds (*What's it printed on? Lead? -Ed*) through your letterbox. And that's spring's harbinger of a great fifty first summer do. So, what can we tell you?



The Second Half

After a long lie down following that white-knuckle ride, the Fiftyval, the festival team is leaping (*stumbling? -Ed*) into action to make a start on the next fifty (*Gulp! - Ed*). And here comes the first of them- strangely wearing shirt No 51.

Now people have said: surely following a big anniversary of half a century is like that fabled conundrum - the difficult second album. After a raging success, how do you follow that? Well yes, good question - but remember that we've already had 48 goes at the problem of topping the previous one and over the years we like to think we've got quite good at it.

Phew! One of the ...



¹with grovelling apologies to Philip Larkin

A Word About Ben



We can't let this newsletter pass without marking the death of one of the festival's leading lights and all round Stainsby stalwart Ben Daglish: webmaster, compere, musician, frontman, Trustee, all-round wit & friend. His family are in the process of setting up a Stainsby Young Artists Fund in his memory. It's a fitting tribute given his love and support of music and young people. And the rest of us? Well we think Ben would want us to go and make Festival 51 an absolute stonker. In his words "Give it up for Stainsby Festival and make some noise"

The Team Sheet

You see the thing is that there are so many good people we know that the difficulty is fitting them all in. One of your favourite choices of recent years was *The Hut People*. Some of you said "Why weren't they at the 50th". Well the truth is you can't have everyone. Where would we put them and when? You can only fill the main stage slots once. So here they are on Saturday night for number 51, followed by the *Joshua Burnell Band*, who are a completely new addition to Stainsby's arsenal of players (*What position do they play in then? -Ed*). Adding long-time favourite *Steve Tilston*, whose new album *Distant Days*, will be out around the festival time, makes for a very compelling Saturday in the making.



Friday features those Yorkshire folk roots rockers, *The Jon Palmer Acoustic Band*, as well as the massively get down and boogie *Jig for a Kiss*. And to top it all on Sunday we'll have *Kangaroo Moon* bringing the house down with their eclectic band of rotating musicians. You'll have wait to till then to see who's actually on the team sheet (*Ah, it's all football analogies this year, is it? - Ed*). Now that's talent in depth! So, as you can see no 51 is showing a great deal of promise in standing out from the scrum already (*Rugby! You're just doing that to annoy me! -Ed*).



And of course, there'll be lots more that we can't tell you yet, because it's all still to play for. Stainsby's a great snapper up of talent at the last minute, the new, the undiscovered, the unexpectedly available. Our scouts are everywhere. *(OK, that's enough with the sports pages – Ed)*

At The Turnstile

This is the point at which we usually do the big reveal that we've held prices or even (very occasionally!) reduced them. Well, all good things come to an end. We're not going to try and wrap it up in fancy wording or brush it off with a joke. We've had to put them up. Partly because we didn't for the 50th as a kind of thank you to everyone, and partly because the price of everything creeps up and up until – *Oh- Oh!* And this is that *Oh-Oh!* moment. We've looked hard at all our costs, tried to make savings and put in measures that will pay off over time, of which more later. But even so... stonies only yield so much blood! EarlyBird Weekend Tickets are now £70 Weekenders are £75 or £80 on the gate. If you get in now that's £10 off the gate price and £40 off the combined session prices. Tickets are on sale right now, so get over to the web booking page and get some in. May 1st will be here before you know it and there's not going to be any extension to this one! *(Don't mention B**x*t! -Ed)*

Pitch Improvements

Those of you with last season's souvenir programme *(Yellow Card. Last warning!- Ed)* will have noticed that there was a bit about some grant funding for the festival from LEADER. It's a European funding that invests in rural areas. So, while we're still in that league *(at the time of writing – Ed)*, we've successfully applied for some. It means we've been able to renew our clapped-out temporary cabling to reduce set up time and we've just installed a sustainable green roadway from the Box Office down to Information.

Once the grass grows through it, you'll scarcely know it's there. The rain will drain through and we can still take a grass crop off before every festival. But the really good news is that we won't need to hire in that expensive (and ugly) steel roadway to guarantee access to the event arena. We've had to put some of our own money up towards it to qualify *(Well, every silver lining has a cloud – Ed)* but over time this will save us a shed load of cash.



The Long Unwinding Road

Part funded by:
**The European Agricultural Fund
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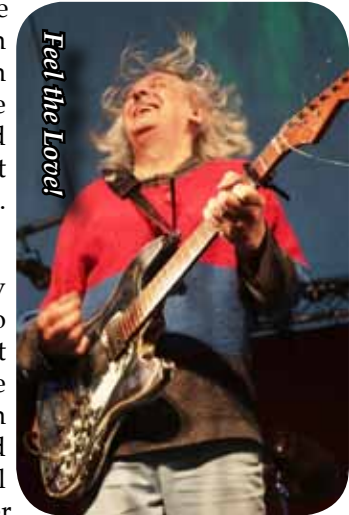


Extra Time

What's more Leader are also enabling us to buy a complete new set of bar fittings and equipment which will get its first use at this year's fest. Form an orderly queue to be the first to get a pint of Festival – *(accept no substitutes? Ed)* - from our super-duper new fittings. Just because we've got a new bar, it doesn't mean there'll be extra time. Though it might still go to penalties if you haven't cleared the bar by the time Ian blows the final whistle. *(OK, OK I concede the game!- Ed)*

The Beautiful Game

The Festival's ethos is about collaboration and coming together as a community as our little red stamp suggests. In the present climate it seems to us that we're more in need of that than ever, so this year we're putting even more emphasis than usual on community, cooperation and consensus. Please feel free to join in and feel the love. Make it Red Stamp not Red Card.



Early Bath

Right time for an early bath. There's lots to do to get no 51 match fit but there's no doubt it'll be a cracker. See you all in July for the annual Old Firm and, of course all that lovely sunny weather. *(Was that a rumble of thunder, I heard? – Ed)*

Post-Match Analysis

As ever if you've got anything to say, we'd love to hear your views - news@stainsbyfestival.org.uk or via our Facebook page or, now here's a novelty, by post to Stainsby Festival S44 5RN

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