



‘Acoustic Blues Weekend’

Euroblues Promotions Limited and The Beacon, Wantage, Oxfordshire presents an ‘Acoustic Blues Weekend’ of workshops, jams and performance. Mark your calendar for Friday 11th to 13th March 2016.

The programme will offer classes starting **Friday from 1pm to 5pm** and an evening jam session from 8pm to midnight for ‘participants only’. On **Saturday, classes will run from 10am to 5pm** followed by a public staff concert at 8pm. On **Sunday, classes will run from 10am to 3pm**. The classes will cater for all levels and we recommend you bring along a portable recorder for future reference. The tutors for the ‘Acoustic Blues Weekend’ are Richard Taylor (harmonica), Homesick Mac (bottleneck slide guitar) and Michael Roach (country blues guitar).

Richard Taylor first picked up the harmonica in the 1970s having first heard Dr Feelgood, Charlie McCoy and The Fabulous Thunderbirds. Through blues festivals with The Blackjacks, trips to the US, and his Harp Surgery website, he has shared stages and forged friendships with many well-known harmonica players. For the weekend, Richard will provide a thorough guide to the skills needed to improve all levels of harmonica playing. Using popular study pieces, practical demonstrations and top tips, he will begin with fun foundation exercises and knowledge building before embarking on a voyage through single note playing and tone-building, to draw and blow bending, interval playing, vibrato, various playing styles and ultimately over-bending.

Homesick Mac has been playing the guitar since the age of 15. His love for blues began when he heard the music of Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee. From 1983 to 1991, Mac was the founding member of 'The Blues Trio', an acoustic group that released 5 recordings in Eastern Europe. After moving to Sweden, he pursued a mostly solo career resulting in two CDs. For 5 consecutive years (1995-2000) he collaborated with the British slide master Sam Mitchell, releasing a duo recording "Two Long From Home". For seven years, Mac taught slide guitar at our annual Blues Week programme and built up a solid following here in the UK. His enthusiasm and energy is unrivalled. For the weekend, Mac will cover the basic tunings of open D & G as well as standard tunings. He will show students how to properly dampen the strings to get a clean slide tone and improve your vibrato.

Michael Roach from Washington, D.C., is the founder and Director of the annual Blues Week and Acoustic Blues Weekend programmes. After spending several years learning directly from such well-known figures as John Jackson, John Cephas and Jerry Ricks, Michael Roach has developed his own style and is now an exceptional performer. With six CD albums to his credit and one instructional DVD (An Introduction to Country Blues Guitar), Michael is firmly established in traditional blues music circles. For the weekend, he will use the music of Big Bill Broonzy and Mississippi John Hurt to teach chord progressions and how to pick out melodies in a song while playing a steady and alternating bass pattern in country blues and ragtime guitar.

Michael will be assisted by guitarist Abie Budgen. Abie has devoted many hours listening to and working out old recordings in an effort to capture and communicate the spirit of the sound. Now a teacher in her own right with an ever-growing wealth of experience and inspired by her passion, Abi continues to perform, write and record.

The registration fee is £160 for the weekend. A single day rate for Saturday only is £80 and includes the evening concert. The rate for Sunday is £50. Advance booking is required and please make your cheques payable to Euroblues Promotions Limited. We accept PayPal and you can also ‘turn up’ and pay on the day.

Regarding accommodation, we are staying at The Bear Hotel (Wantage). It is a two-minute walk from The Beacon. We negotiated a special room rate of £50 per night for a single and £90 for a double (rates include breakfast). Their telephone number is 01235 766 366.