

Salisbury International Arts Festival

Party in the Close: No Better Ending

10/10 Review by Ben Franks, 04/06/11

There's always a huge sense of pride that arises from me when I watch Caught in the Crossfire perform. Being an old friend of the members in the band, it is amazing to see just how much they've grown. I don't think the Festival organisers could've chosen a better way to start their epic ending. The stunning Salisbury International Arts Festival with this round off proved to be a truly unforgettable showcase of talent, entertainment and joyous celebrations.

The stage performances were captivating to the mass turnout of people who sat camped around their picnics enjoying a night of post-rock, dance and cultural music. From the charming vocals and rocking ambience of Caught in the Crossfire, through the crowd-drawing dance pop of African culture by the charismatic Kanda Bongo Man group, to magnificently different and enticing jazz and reggae, stirring our Salisbury spirits, by Soothsayers & the Red Earth Collective, the stage was the true soul of the night. It was so captivating in fact, not even the Great British rain could keep crowds away!

Of course, there was also a collection of workshops, keeping people of all ages happy and entertained when they fancied something a little different, and stands serving hot food for all those feeling peckish. The Festival staff truly set up a perfect night out for families, friendship groups and people of all sorts.

The fireworks were where most people's excitement lay. After such a great night of social, musical and amusing entertainment, how could fireworks ever live up to expectations? Well, the Festival organisers proved their excellence once again. The blazing displays of music-choreographed booms and bangs, lights and swirls were highlights of the awe-felt and adrenaline provoking atmospheres juggled in other performances during the festival. It captured our excitement and love for the night perfectly. I truly believe there was no better end.

The night of Saturday 4th June, then, didn't just achieve in bringing a beautiful, hearty end to these great two weeks of the arts, but it was a night bringing Salisbury together. It was a night that saw Salisbury at its **best**.