

Earthed – Salisbury Live
Salisbury International Arts Festival

Earthed; an unusual name for a gig, but a fantastic gig none the less. Located in the City Hall Foyer, *Earthed* was one of the many gigs taking place across the city. With tickets a sell out it was set to be a fantastic evening.

Prior to the gig a group of teenagers had taken part in a songwriter course, a project that's part of the arts festival, run by the mighty Geoff Swan and Colin Holton. The course, starting in January consisted of three intensive weeks in different locations where the young artists got to work on their songs. The course also included working with music students from Salisbury College and volunteers from Bass Connection - plus, City Stereo, one of Salisbury's most successful bands, also contributed by doing a workshop as part of the course.

The teenagers opened the evening by singing a variety of songs they had been working on as part of the course; some of them were based on one of the festival's themes; earth and stone, hence the gig being called 'Earthed'. The young musicians will also be recording their songs to be put onto a CD that will be uploaded onto the web; be sure to look out for that! I was very impressed by the talent of these young musicians and let's hope that we see more from them in the future.

Following on from them were a young band called 'Caught in the Crossfire.' I was very surprised to learn that this was only their second gig as they delivered a professional and entertaining performance, including cover songs and some excellent tracks they had written themselves.

Many of the young people that had been waiting for this band to come on rushed forward to see them play and create a mosh pit. Heavy Metal band Drowned by Oceans really got the crowd moving, apart from the older audience members who made their way to the back to escape the mosh pit.

I got the impression that most of the young people who came, were primarily here for Drowned by Oceans, the same with the parents who had only come for the first part as many people left before Big Num played their set. Nevertheless they delivered, what I would describe as, a hardcore performance, delivering songs with powerful riffs that will be on their upcoming album. It is safe to say that Big Num never disappoint.

The gig offered something for everyone and if you didn't have the chance to go, make sure you do next year!

Jenny Snell