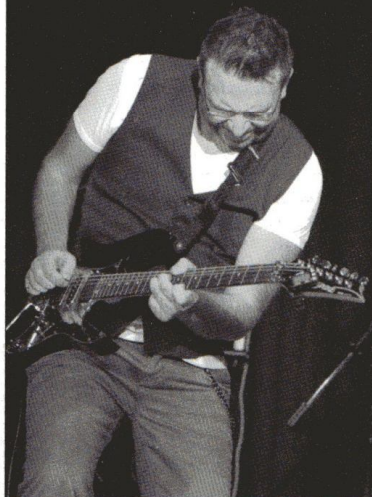


Dave Cureton



IOEARTH & TILLISON/MANNING

The Wesley Centre, Malthby

3RD NOVEMBER 2012

Tonight was originally planned as a double-header with IO Earth and The Tangent, but sadly that mouth-watering prospect was derailed by the untimely dissolution of the current Tangent line-up. No matter, however, as Tangent Supremo Andy Tillison stepped manfully into the breach by recruiting his regular sparring partner Guy Manning for an informal duo performance, utilising keyboards and acoustic guitars.

As one would expect from that particular pairing, serious chin-stroking was nowhere in attendance, as the expected between-song (and sometimes mid-song!) banter had the audience thoroughly amused and entertained. Not that the music itself disappointed however – far from it, as they took us through a set drawn from tangent material, some Parallel Or 90 Degrees stuff, selections from Guy Manning's repertoire, and some off-the-wall surprises (a version of van Der Graaf generator's fearsomely complex epic Man-Erg wasn't in anybody's expectations!). Most of the other pieces performed translated well to the new arrangements, with *The World That We Drive Through* particularly impressive, and Guy's popular *Margaret Montgomery* also went over well. Utilising an array of samples and sequences, Andy provided a rich and varied sonic palette – though the realisation that we are not safe from the *Drum Solo* even in the absence of actual drums was an alarming moment! A most entertaining set, rescuing the night's double-bill in splendid fashion.

Well-regarded Birmingham band IOEarth provided the headlining set, and this in contrast was a full-power, high energy band set. The band's visual focus is split between the vocals of Claire Malin (tonight intriguingly commencing

Claire Malin

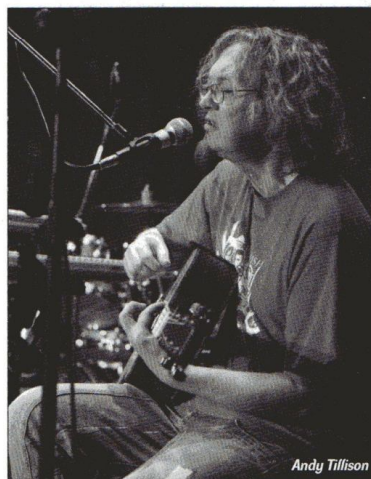


the set attired in sweeping black velvet cloak) and the guitar/vocals of band leader Dave Cureton. Never one to be described as a shrinking violet in his stage persona, Dave's usual ebullient and larger than life performance brought the songs to life as he threw his usual array of rock-star shapes (and, I know he won't mind me saying so, providing a stark contrast to the glamour provided by Clare – sorry, Dave!).

Musically, the set drew heavily from both of the band's albums, with the new material sitting well alongside their established favourites, and it is safe to say that no one left the hall disappointed. It was refreshing to see that, in the spirit of the 'prog scene' we love so much, all concerned worked together to overcome the potentially damaging lack of the anticipated Tangent appearance to create a marvellously entertaining evening of contrasting styles. A good night had by all.

WORDS: STEVE PILKINGTON

PHOTOS: CHRIS WALKDEN



Andy Tillison