

Carry the News – A Quirky Interview and Review with The Stone Foundation.

Written by [Neil Palmer](#)



There is one thing that shines through when you meet Stone Foundation's lead singer and that is his undying love for the music that this band from the Midlands are producing at this point in their career.

This astute singer-songwriter sits opposite me, sipping from his bottle of water, as we talk before the band's gig at the Thekla in Bristol. As the rain and wind lashes against this moored ship in the heart of Bristol's docks, Jones explains how this nationwide tour has been going. *"Things are really moving at the moment; the tour is really going down well and obviously with the success of the album things are really on the up for us".*

Stone Foundation came together through Frontman Jones and co-writer Neil Sheasby's love of all things Motown, Stax, the Philly Sound as well as Hip Hop. After being in various bands the pair collided together to form a formidable writing partnership, that to date has produced five studio albums with Everybody Anyone being the latest and probably the best. Jones explains *"We are really pleased with the album's content and how it's been received by the fans, I really get a kick out of seeing people at gigs singing the songs and generally having a good time to the music."*



On a personal note, I arrived at destination [Stone Foundation](#) through my own love of all things, Weller. I wondered if this is a help or hindrance to the band? Jones replies, *"Paul has been a real help to us, not only in the studio but as a mate and we all appreciate it. We do get asked about the Weller thing particularly when we first started working with him, but of late, we are appealing to fans on our own terms which is great. Although [Paul](#) appears with us now and again, his presence just adds something to the feel of Stone Foundation as opposed to us suddenly becoming a backing band for him. This is obviously something neither of us want."*

There was a real cross-section of fans eagerly awaiting the bands set at [Bristol's Thekla](#). On such a dreadful night outside it was fitting that Jones and Sheasby guided us through a set that had it all, like two captains who were now in charge of this floating venue. Opening with Sweet Forgiveness they put their marker down on the night with a joyous rendition of the first track on the new album. From the first bars, the crowd knew they were in for a special night. The music was uplifting and exciting.



There is a real connection between all the band members and audience, from Jones' guitar riffs to Sheasby's driving bass, the sound builds with such pace, you would think there is no room for the fantastic musicianship of the drums, piano and percussion let alone a brass section that would not have been out of place in Earth Wind and Fire, yet there movingly is, oh bliss. And to top it all, some soulful vocals that the fans loved and cherished.

Stone Foundation never took their foot of the pedal all evening and with a fantastic encore of Ann Peebles' 70s classic, *I'm Going to Tear Your Play House Down*. It was mission accomplished for the band as they had taken the Bristol fans on a journey through a collection of songs, that in these times of uncertainty in the world had brought the audience a couple of hours of joy and happiness.

Things are expanding in the world of Stone Foundation and as one of the tracks on the album says, Carry the News. Make sure you do because this band is not too be missed.



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Last modified on Monday, 12 November 2018 15:55



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