

Words and Deeds

FARM FEAST

Claremont Farm

FARM FEAST has managed to take the best bits of the country show, combine them with artisan food stalls, add a sprinkling of Capstan's Bazaar and more than a soupçon of music and produce an excellent two-day festival, with no camping/glamping required.

As we arrive on the Saturday lunchtime, we can hear SCARLET giving it their all over the PA. Heading over to the Main Stage, we catch the majority of this lively indie band's set, with Daisy Chains and current single Anyway sounding particularly fine in the sun. Modesty forbids us from overly singing the praises of this stage – handily positioned near the Ship & Mitre marquee – as we curated it. However, we linger to catch indie quartet VYNCE after Scarlet, who give an accomplished performance, again using the opportunity to showcase their latest single, April Showers.

Away from the Main Stage, Merseyrail Sound Station and Liverpool Live TV have bijou pop-up spaces – the latter even containing the famous red sofa, where we catch the gorgeous vocal harmonies of ME AND DEBOE and, later, a tantalising, stripped-back echo of the BLACK MOUNTAIN LIGHTS performance that we were lucky to witness in full on the Main Stage.

Speaking of which... next up are CAVALRY – a five-piece with some amazingly catchy tunes, not least of which is latest single An Understanding. A professional, tight half-hour of alt. folk music follows.

After Cavalry's set, we finally manage to make it further than the red sofa sessions to the Mellowtone-curated Courtyard Stage. It's a gem: set in a lovely cobbled courtyard surrounded by food stalls and containing the now-ubiquitous hay bales, and presided over by the always affable Dave McTague. We linger here for a while, enjoying the alt. folk vibe of Liverpool singer-songwriter Kevin Critchley and companion. Then it's back to the Main Stage for one of the day's highlights – Wirral's own BLACK MOUNTAIN LIGHTS. They open with Two Steps, and we're pretty much gone, swaying and singing along with this toe-tapping, driving track – reminiscent of the Louisiana bayou rather than the Wirral peninsula. The harmonies are extremely tight, and the band members are all multi-talented. Definitely ones to listen out for.

BBC Introducing favourites SHE DREW THE GUN, the alter ego of Louisa Roche, have four members on the Main Stage today. They give a cool and collected performance, with favourites If I Could See and Pebbles our highlights. We're also lucky enough to catch their more stripped-back set on the Courtyard Stage, after a rousing performance by HENRY PULP AND THE LYING B*ST*RDS.

In between all the music, we've scarfed down enough food and drink to keep us going well into the evening and – of course – purchased some boss beer to take home...

Hassle-free parking; good public transport links; a mellow, laid-back vibe; great food and drink; music – and sun. Farm Feast has it all. We'll be back next year.

Let me turn your deeds into words