

4/Sep/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Reformed Lindisfarne top the bill . . .

Just a few days to go before the Dunstable Folk and Dance Weekend. The action kicks off on Friday with a ceilidh (which is like a barn dance but noisier) at the Peter Newton Pavilion hosted by local electric ceilidh band **MoonDance** with caller **Fee Lock** who is fast making a name for herself on the UK festival scene. Tickets are available on the door at £6 (£2 for under 14's) or in advance from the Box Office or Octave Music in High Street North Dunstable (01582-601117, credit cards accepted). See www.moondance.org.uk for more information.

On Saturday there will be Morris Dancing around the town and an acoustic music session at the Norman King Public House hosted by the well known St Albans based melodeon player - **Alison Macfarlane** - all are welcome. The jewel in the crown of the weekend is the Saturday evening free open air concert in Grove House Gardens with 70's folk/rockers **Lindisfarne** topping the bill playing both old hits like "Fog on the Tyne", "Meet Me on the Corner" and "Run for Home" as well as material off their new CD "Here Comes the Neighbourhood". They will be supported by Euro-dance outfit **Prego** who went down a storm last year and are making a return visit, as is the singer/songwriter **Rick Christian** who will be acting as MC as well as filling in the breaks during the set changes. Local support acts on the Saturday are **WoodworX** who will be performing a set of contemporary Australian songs and instrumental music from **No Dogs, No Football**.

On the Sunday there will another free afternoon concert hosted by Martin Banks which will feature **Michelle Welbourne**, **Mary Humphreys**, **Hamish Currie** and **Anahata** as well as local talent and the weekend will be rounded off by a **enQ** gig in the evening at Brooklyn's Bar in High Street North. Like last year, many of the events will be organised by local musicians, dancers, venues and other organisations all co-ordinated by Dunstable Town Council. For more information contact Michelle Alexander at Dunstable Town Council on 01582-513000 or check out the web site at www.roots66.net/dfw.

On to other things - James Henry from local band **Twelve Gates** tells me that they have launched their new official web site at www.twelvegates.co.uk. The site has facilities for fans to talk with the band and has the most up-to-date news on the band. James tells me that the band mix elements of Death, Grindcore and Black metal with some thrash metal making a unique listening experience. If you like what you hear then you'll soon get a chance to see them live as they are currently gearing up for some more local gigs.



11/Sep/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Another Great Dunstable Folk Weekend!

Over a thousand people packed into Grove House Gardens on Saturday to watch the free evening concert that was the high point of the Dunstable Dance & Folk Weekend. Enjoying the warm evening, the audience streamed into the open air performance area to watch four acts ranging from the local instrumental trio - **No Dogs, No Football** - to the nationally known folk/rock icons **Lindisfarne** who played material off their new CD as well as their greatest hits such as "Fog on the Tyne" and "Meet Me on the Corner". The other two bands - **WoodworX** - and last year's big hit - **Prego** - received rapturous applause from an enthusiastic audience and the whole thing was tied together by singer/songwriter **Rick Christian** who held down the MC role and played a few songs during the band changeovers.



On Sunday the free music showcase, again in Grove House Gardens, gave more local talent a chance to show off their skills. Hosted by local singer and Morris dancer **Martin Banks**, the concert featured great sets from **Hamish Currie**, **Life and Times**, **Pender's Fen** and a blinding set from the **Michele Welborn Band** who I reckon ought to get a slot in the main concert next year. Friday's **MoonDance** Ceilidh at The Peter Newton Pavilion was well attended with caller **Fee Lock** putting an enthusiastic audience through their paces. Add the Morris dance displays around the town and the music sessions at the Froth 'n' Elbow and the Norman King pubs and you get the biggest and best festival to date. A big hand to Dunstable Town Council for making it all possible.



If you want to find out more about folk music in the area then try and get your hands on a copy of the free Unicorn magazine which is printed in Luton and lists a large number of local events, concerts and artists as well as news and record reviews. They also sponsor a series of ceilidhs at Hitchin Town Hall, the next of which is on Friday week (September 20) and features local band **Laughing Gravy**, caller **Malcolm North** and a Real Ale bar! Tickets are £6 (£4 under 14's) and are available from Alan Creamer on 01582-733113, who will also be able to tell you where you can get your hands on a copy of the magazine.

Local acoustic rock/pop band - **The Tempest** - are topping the bill down at The Sound Republic in Leicester Square (London) tomorrow (Thursday). The band hit the stage at just after nine o'clock. They have organised a free coach from Luton to London for fans who want to get to the gig. The band will email tickets for anybody wishing to come along so either visit their web site at <http://www.the-tempest.com> or give their management a call on 07956-812831.

18/Sep/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

A Blast from the Past

In 1978 a local rock band called **Clientelle** formed and started gigging in venues like the Horn in St Albans, the Queensway Hall and the college circuit. The original band featured 'Rocket' **Roy Powell**, **Rik Taylor**, **Stevie 'T' Trugget** and **Phil Goodfellow**, though a number of other musicians passed through the line-up over the years. The band soon had an ever increasing group of fans called the 'Telle Army'. In 1979 they pressed up 500 copies of a single which they sold at gigs to an ever increasing audience. This first foray into record production was so successful that in September 1981, the band released an album called 'Destination Unknown' featuring seven new tracks plus the tracks from the single. Only 500 were again pressed and, like the single, they were bought by the loyal 'Telle' crowd. After three more years, which included a tour support slot for the legendary Hawkwind, the band folded.



This could have been the end of the story. However, unknown to the ex-members of the band, copies of their, now rare, two record releases changed hands over the years and have gradually become collector's items. Pan forward to 2001, after an astounding interest from all over Europe and also the USA, the ex-members of the band decided to re-release the album, this time on CD. **Rik Taylor** also set up the Clientelle web site, a definitive archive of the band's history and a meeting point for both fans and ex members of the band. The latest instalment of this ongoing story is that earlier this year the original line-up of the band met up for the first time in over fifteen years and decide to do a reunion gig to launch the CD at the Horn Reborn in St Albans on Thursday November 7. Tickets are £5 and are available from the Horn in advance (01727-853143 or www.thehorn.co.uk). But you'd better book in advance, Rik tells me that fans from as far away as Italy are snapping up tickets already!

Brian from local band **Shine**, who recently appeared on Showcase TV, tells me that they are gigging down at the Sound Republic in Leicester Square on October 2. The band will be doing a coach from Luton and tickets will be available through their web www.geocities.com/shinetheband2000 or you can call Brian on 07985389539 or email him on brizz11@hotmail.com.

Folk fans get a rare chance to see **Dave Swarbrick** and **Kevin Dempsey** tomorrow (Thursday) at the Goldcrest Inn in Baldock. The dynamic duo will be supported by Mike Chapman and the music kicks off at 8.15 pm. Tickets cost is £10 and £8 on the door and as there are no pre booked tickets available, arrival before 8pm is recommended if you want to get a seat! Contact Alan Hewson on 01462-438373 or alan@madnanny.co.uk for more details.

25/Sep/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Too Far Gone are back!

Andy Sizmur from local band **TooFarGone** tells me that they've been having a busy time of it lately. Back in the spring the band had to pull out of the semi-final of the Dunstable Battle of the Bands when they lost their bass player. However things seem to be on the up-and-up again for the band as they have recently chosen a new bass player. Andy also says that they have been using the couple of months break from gigging writing new material and goes on to say that the band will start playing live again on Friday December 6 when they are headlining at a charity night in aid of the Samaritans' Child Christmas appeal. The venue will be The Victoria Hall in Tring and will be supported by **Bowfinger** and a band from the Tring area called **Powervolve**. Tickets, which are on sale now, are £5 each and are strictly limited to 225 so anyone is interested should email the band at info@toofargone.co.uk.



A rare chance to see **Show Of Hands** locally when they stop off on their Autumn tour at Roots @ Zaks in Wolverton (Milton Keynes) next Wednesday (October 2). Billed as England's leading acoustic duo (at least according to Q Magazine) the West Country duo have taken acoustic music to a new level with a huge following and the ability to sell out venues like The Albert Hall, which they have achieved twice to date. **Show of Hands** is a long standing collaboration of songwriter **Steve Knightley** and multi-instrumentalist **Phil Beer** (ex-Arizona Smoke Review, Albion Band) and their music combines the melodic and narrative strengths of English and Celtic traditional music with instruments and textures from other traditions. Their set features the cuatro (South America), the cello-mandolin (Eastern Europe), the slide guitar (USA), and the mandolin (Italy), all performed with a 'rock' mentality. Call Linda Rowe 01908-310278 or 07786-088379 for more information.

On Sunday (September 29) Jazzers should get over to the Grand Junction Arms at Bulbourne to the last to see **Frannie Verney Quintet** for some time. Frannie has a great voice backed up with a tight sound from the band led by **Pete Hershaw**. You can make a night of it as the pub does a buffet curry supper for £7.50. For further information call Simon on 01442-890677.

Tomorrow night (Thursday) you can put on your pork pie hat and sunglasses, and get on down to the Frog and Rhubarb in Slip End when they are doing a Blues Brothers theme night. The night will be featuring a live Rhythm and Blues and Soul Review Band, Soul food and draft Budweiser on tap. Call them 01582-452722 for more information.

Send gig information to "The Brian Heywood Column", PO Box 649, Dunstable, Beds, LU5 4XD and you can also email details of gigs, gossip, web sites or anything else to info@lutonscene.com. A search-able archive of the column is available on the web at <http://www.lutonscene.com>.
