

2/Oct/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Hot Music from Hamish.

Anyone who was at the local showcase concert held on the Sunday of the Dunstable Folk Weekend will have seen up-and-coming singer **Hamish Currie** perform to an enthusiastic audience in Grove House Gardens. If you missed this great display of local talent then you'll get a second chance to see Hamish when he plays over at the Goldcrest Inn, in Baldock's High Street tomorrow night (Thursday). He will be hosting the Mad Nanny Folk Club's 'Open Floor' where he will be singing English traditional songs along with a hint of Americana, whilst accompanying himself on guitar. Though he was born and bred on the east coast of Scotland, he now lives down here and is a regular performer and MC at The Tudor Folk Club in Chesham, Bucks. The open floor events at the Goldcrest give aspiring performers a chance to play to an audience in a friendly environment and entry is £4, or £2 if you do a floor spot. For more information you can call Alan on 0845-123-2658, email alan@madnanny.co.uk or check out the web site at www.madnanny.co.uk.

Iain from **Bowfinger** tells me that the party that they put on to launch their new single was a resounding success. "We couldn't believe it - the venue was sold out within 45 minutes and we had to turn people away." Local heroes and Battle of the Band winners **Hush** opened the evening, followed by an acoustic set from talented Luton singer/guitarist Steve Tebbutt with an impromptu guest appearance from Andy Sizmur from **TooFarGone**. **Bowfinger** rounded off the night with a set and reaffirmed that the Luton music scene is still a hotbed of new talent. Iain told me that by the end of the evening that the bar had even sold out of drink! Bowfinger's single is out now on Latent Lemon Records and features the songs 'Probably Wrong' and 'Wallflower' and was recorded by local producer Justin Saban. Visit www.bowfinger.net for more information on the band. Bowfinger's Barry (drums) also remarked "We'd like to thank everyone that made it such a great night and for those that couldn't get in - we'll be back!"

Local band **Tempest** are playing down at the Horn Reborn St Albans tonight (Wednesday) and will be running a minibus down there. If you want a lift give their management a call on 07956-812831. The band are also playing at the Roman Way in Luton on Friday (October 4) and at the October 16 semi-final of the Chicago Rock Cafe Starsearch competition at Luton. The band also tells me that **Tempest** T-Shirts will soon be available, email robbingram@yahoo.com to find out how to get your hands on one.

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U2 at Jumping Jacks

A small but perfectly formed audience were jumping to the music of Irish superstars U2 when tribute band **FU2K** played down at Jumping Jacks in Jarman Park, Hemel Hempsted last Wednesday. The band features local drummer Richard Spooner who is no stranger to the local music scene having cut his musical teeth with **Pure Entity** (who came second in the 1991 Luton News Battle of the Bands), **Innocent Bystander** (finalists in the 1997 Battle of the Bands), Dunstable based **Spectacle** and a member pop poll winners **Devlin**. The U2 tribute celebrates 21 years of the worlds greatest rock band and brings together U2's memorable hits with a high-energy stage performance worthy of the Irish mega stars themselves. You can find out more about the tribute band by checking out <http://www.f-u2-k.co.uk>.



I hear from a friend of the band that Battle of the Bands contestants **Long Shore Drift** (great name guys) has been pretty busy, with three gigs last week with local band **SureFire**. I understand that the group has polished up its act even more and sets are tighter and a completely new setlist. The band has been in existence just over a year, and they are on the gig trail with a vengeance. Watch this space for more news.

The next Unicorn Ceilidh is happening at Hitchin Town Hall next Friday (October 18). The band is Milton Keynes based **Stocai** with caller **Chris Pitt** who is well known on the national scene, being in demand for festivals and other high profile events. The band is a six piece outfit that combines bagpipes, bassoon, concertina, flute, guitar, keyboards, mandola, mandolin, melodeon, percussion, violin and whistle. Kevin Adams features on fiddle, mandola and electric guitar along with Sheena Masson (Stömp) who rocks out on concertina, flute and basson, Heather Vigar-Horsley (Old Swan Band, Token Women) on keyboards, flute and whistle, Dave Jolly (Pandemonium) plays melodeon and anglo concertina, Chris Walshaw (The Duellists) provides the big French sound on pipes, flute and whistle and Martin Hazell (Ran-Tan Band) on percussion. **Stocai** draws on English, French, Scandinavian, Quebecois, Old Time American dance music traditions and more, whilst utilising the tune writing skills of the whole band and "borrowing" tunes from well known musicians such as Cliff Stapleton (an original member of the band) and John Kirkpatrick - the problem has been what to leave out! The night kicks off at 8.00 and goes till late with a Real Ale Bar. Tickets cost only £6 (£4 for under 14s). For more details call 01582-733113 (day) or 01582-724261 (eve).

Don't forget that you can 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>.