

7/May/2002 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

The Well in Hightown Road, Luton, is starting a regular late night live music evening on Saturdays, kicking off this weekend (May 10) with Dunstable Battle of the Bands finalists **Audio Justice**. The Letchworth based band play a unique blend of power-pop and quirky - almost heavy metal - mix of concentrated musicality. These boys pack a lot of punch into each song - ranging from Joe Jackson-like meaningful pop lyrics through head thrashing chants spiced with Jimi Hendrix quality lead guitar solos. For more information about the band contact Dan on 07958 753834 or check out the website at www.audiojustice.net. The Well will be open until 1am and plan to host both originals and covers bands and occasionally specialist DJ's. Next week (May 17) **The Dickies** will be playing soulful covers.

Tomorrow night (Thursday) **Graham & Eileen Pratt** will be appearing at The Hollybush Public House in Redbourn. This duo have graced the folk revival with their performances for many years, gaining praise all the way for Graham's inventive songwriting and Eileen's ringing voice, one of almost operatic quality. The venue is the Old School Room at The Hollybush Public House, Church End, Redbourn and the music starts at 8:30 with floor pots from local performers. Further details are available from 01582-452954 or 07850-163241 or by contacting The Hollybush on 01582 792423.

Jazz fans can see the **Damon Brown International Quintet** on Sunday night (May 11) at the Fairway Suite at Panshanger Golf Complex in Welwyn Garden City. Trumpeter and flugelhorn player Damon will be bringing a band of international stars including Italian pianist **Antonio Ciocca**, Japanese drummer **Yoshida Masahira**, British tenorist **Ed Jones** and bass player **Geoff Gascoyne** to the area. Unlike many contemporary trumpet players, he manages to escape the shadow of Miles Davis. If anything, Damon goes for the same warm accessible sound his namesake, Clifford Brown. The quintet's repertoire consists of arrangements of standards and his own compositions, sounding like they ought to be standards. Doors open 7:30 pm with music from 8:00 pm till 10:30 pm. For more information phone 01992-550230 or check out the website at www.hertsjazz.co.uk.

If you fancy some ceilidh dancing then local band - **Moon Tan Clan** - are playing at The Knights Templar School in Baldock next Saturday (May 17). The band's performances have been described as full of throwaway humour, full-bodied tunes, traditional, modern & silly songs, several vocalists, bucketloads of instruments - it sounds like great fun! The dancing starts at 8pm and the £5 ticket price includes a Ploughman's supper (BYO drinks). The event is hosted by Baldock Midnight Morris and tickets are available from Baldock Community Centre or Sarah Cass. For more information email molky97@ntlworld.com.

14/May/2003 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Reprieve for Luton Venue

The saying that "it's an ill wind that blows no good" is being born out by the fact that the current chaos in the country's rail network - caused by RailTrack being declared bankrupt has saved one of Luton's prime music venues from closure. It seems that the insolvency has meant that Eddie's Bar, which was put under a compulsory purchase order last year, has been given another chance. The new management - led by music venue veteran Bernard - is taking advantage of the situation by piling on the gigs. Eddie's bar has to be one of the best known music venues in the town and the only one that I know of that has a full programme of music ranging from their popular Tuesday 'open mic' acoustic sessions and Thursday rock jam session (hosted by Spooky Toy) to full-on covers and original music on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Bernard - who has experience in the tough London music scene (Hope and Anchor, Camden etc.) - tells me that they have taken a two year lease with an option for a ten year lease if the rail re-organisation allows and is dedicated to the concept of life music in Luton. So get down and show your support when **The Guitar Bastards** play their progressive hard rock on Friday, **Fubar** play a mix of Soul Funk covers and originals on Saturday and acoustic duo **Tick Tock** wide down the weekend on Sunday. Call Eddie's on 01582-651050 for more information.

Luton University Radio is back on the air again as well and plugging local live music on the air waves for all they're worth. Local bands who want to get some airplay should send their publicity packs to the Head of Music - Marie Kemp - at LutonFM, 75 Castle Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 3AJ. But hurry, they have a limited duration licence. More details next week.

Two events in the Baldock direction, there is an acoustic music and song session being held at The Boot public house as part of the Baldock Festival and don't forget that local band - **Moon Tan Clan** - are playing for a ceilidh (barn dance) at The Knights Templar School in Baldock on Saturday (May 17) . The dancing starts at 8pm and the £5 ticket price includes a Ploughman's supper (BYO drinks). The event is hosted by Baldock Midnight Morris and tickets are available from Baldock Community Centre or Sarah Cass. For more information about the dance email molky97@ntlworld.com or contact Alan Questor on 0845-123-2658 (or email: alan@madnanny.co.uk) about the session.

21/May/2003 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Shock Horror - Local Radio Books Local Band!

Local Luton Band **Bowfinger** are the ONLY local band booked to play on the Chiltern Radio stage in Wardown Park at this year's Luton Carnival. The local lads will be playing on the same bill as **The Beat** and **Desmond Dekker** and will undoubtedly blow them off the stage. If you want to support the local talent then you can see them on stage at 1:20pm. The band have also teamed up with local record producer **Justin Saban** to release their latest single "Probably Wrong" as well as recording some new tracks for possible future release. Barry - the band's drummer - says that "the CD launch gig in Luton Town centre was amazing, it sold out in half an hour", apparently they had to turn people away. Disappointed fans will get another chance though, when the band does their 'Summer Spectacular' gig at Sadlers Bar in Luton on June 6. The line-up features **Reverie**, **Steve Tebbut** and **The Occasion** (ex. TooFarGone) so it should be a good night, see www.bowfinger.net for more information.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to make the Bowfinger gig as my band **enQ** will be playing a charity gig down at Harpenden on the same night (June 6). The concert marks the end of a short recess while the band promoted the new album - "Tear Down the Barriers" - here and in Australia and America. The CD has been getting rave reviews from magazines and radio stations from as far away as Siberia and Australia with quotes like "What an amazingly innovative and energetic band; their fusion of folk, traditional, rock and funk surpasses anything other bands have tried to date" from Tony Bates of 3WBC 94.1 FM in Australia. However we're back on the live circuit and if you are into an exciting fusion of rock, roots and pop then call 01582-623199 or 01582-766942 to get tickets. All profits go to Age Concern and Stairways. Check out www.enq.org.uk for more details.

On Friday (May 23) the new acoustic duo **Aurelia** from Luton are debuting at the Cork and Bull (Cumberland St, Luton). The duo got together after lead guitarist **Robert Adamek** left the band **Canned Applause** and linked up with singer/guitarist **Cristina Norrington**. The twosome - who are both 19 - play their own songs and hope to play their own music - with only two guitars and vocals - in and around Luton. They tell me that their songs are easy listening and could be described as melodic soft rock, the lyrics vary throughout each song with some being quite dreamlike. You can also see popular covers band **Say No More** at the same venue on bank holiday Monday (May 26). For more information call 01582-729586.

Send gig information to "The Brian Heywood Column", PO Box 649, Dunstable, Beds, LU5 or to info@lutonscene.com. A search-able archive of the column is available on the web at www.lutonscene.com.