

## 07/Jul/2004 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### Hop to Stömp

On Friday (July 9) one of the most dangerously danceable English Ceilidh bands in the UK is visiting Dunstable for this month's Tyre Kickers' Ceilidh. For those not in the know, ceilidh (pronounced 'kaylee') is a new spin on traditional barn dance, a way to bop on the dance floor



that's set to take the country by storm. The music is a fusion of infectious 'world' rhythms of rock, Latino, Reggae, Cajun or even Salsa and the dances are simple enough to that you don't need any previous experience. There is also a 'caller' - Peter Bearon on Friday - to help you learn the moves which usually takes a few minutes before each dance. **Stömp** - whose name derives from an ancient English word for dance - draw their music from the whole of the British Isles, Scandinavia and beyond. The music is a dynamic fusion of traditional and contemporary sources so Scan Tester and Walter Bulwer rub shoulders with The Red Hot Chili Peppers and Steely Dan meets Steeleye Span in the repertoire of a band

The instrumentation is based around a front line of flute and concertina of Sheena Masson and skirling fiddle of Kevin Adams who surf a wall of driving guitar (Andrew King), bass (Martin Appleby) and drums (Rob Gifford). The band have played festivals around the UK including the main stage of the mighty Cambridge Folk Festival as well as public dances and the odd party and wedding. Incidentally, the word 'ceilidh' has been borrowed from our celtic tradition and basically means 'party', which gives you an idea of the intent. Tickets for Friday's ceilidh are available on the door at £6 for adults, £3 for under 16's and concessions while under 12's are free if accompanied by an adult. The venue is St Mary's Social Club on West Street, just next past the end of the shops as you head towards Tring, and there is plenty of free parking around the hall and there is a bar. You can get more information or reserve tickets by calling Kevin on 01908-511156, emailing [kev@stompceilidh.co.uk](mailto:kev@stompceilidh.co.uk) or check out the Tyre Kickers's website at [www.roots66.net/tkc](http://www.roots66.net/tkc)

After last week's item on TogFest, Steve Henslow wrote to remind me that the UK has music festivals all over, some for hardy but happy campers like Glastonbury, Isle of Wight and Towersey Festival, some more town based like Sidmouth, Warwick and our very own Dunstable Festival on the first weekend in September. This year's festival kicks off with a MoonDance ceilidh on Friday night, a concert with the Acoustic Strawbs, Mas' Y' Mas, Roy Bailey and The Oyster Band on Saturday night, and another on Sunday featuring Rick Christian, Life and Times, Wanderin' Soles and Sons of the Soil

---

## 14/Jul/2004 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### Devlin on Toast...

One of the mainstays of the local music scene, Sean Devlin, has started a new venture in Luton. The award winning singer/songwriter and hyper-active front man for the eponymous Devlin has opened his own restaurant – called Arthur - on Park Street near Luton's University. Sean, who is also a chef with over 20 year's experience, has cooked for the likes of Mick Jagger and Rod Stewart as well as royalty and food lovers. The food is Mediterranean and European all cooked from fresh ingredients and there are specialist vegetarian dishes with a new menu each day. As you might expect there's a musical element with a pianist to provide live background music while you eat. While Sean will be mainly concentrating of producing the great food for which he's renowned I imagine he may well take a turn at tickling the ivories with some of his original material. It sounds like an ideal place to grab some good tucker before hitting the town for some of the great bands that play around Luton, call 01582-454096 to reserve yourself a table.

On Saturday local funky hard rocksters - or perhaps rocky hard funksters - **Stonegrass** are playing down at the Horn in St Albans supporting the Pearl Jam tribute band **Ten**. The band have been building steadily with the release of their second EP "Rewrite the Words" earlier this year which got a lot of great feedback and their involvement in the Radio 1 / NME backed "Transit Tour" in the spring. For more information check out [www.stonegrass.com](http://www.stonegrass.com) or just get down to The Horn on Saturday.

Local acoustic rockers **Bowfinger** have released their debut album "Happy with what you got" on Latent Lemon Recordings. The band launched the album to a capacity crowd at The Well Music Venue at the end of May. The CD has been receiving great reviews like; "...they shove the brilliance of Cardiacs tomfoolery in your face, and joyful Costello dynamics through your stereo. Bolstered by some brilliant songwriting, it's hard to fault this lot at all" from Record Collector (May 2004). For more information, mp3s and how to buy a copy, visit Latent Lemon Recordings at [www.latentlemon.co.uk](http://www.latentlemon.co.uk).

Jazz fans should check out the Fairway gig on Sunday (Jul 18) when two of the UK's most prestigious Trombone players – Mark Nightingale and Andy Wood - perform their tribute to the JJ Johnson/Kai Winding Quintet. The band includes Brian Dee on piano, Simon Woolf on bass and Ralph Salmins on drums. Admission is £9 (£7 for members) and takes place at the Fairway Suite at Panshanger Golf Club, Hens Lane, Welwyn Garden City. Call 01992-550230 or 01707-330436 for more details.

---

## 21/Jul/2004 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

Alan from **Over\*Easy**'s management dropped me a line to let me know what the band is up to. The band burst on the local scene last year when they won last year's Dunstable Battle of the Bands with their dynamic stage presence and high powered funk rock and were also voted Hertbeat FM Radio Band of the Year. Since then the band have been making their mark across the channel with a guest appearance Fete De La Music Festival in Southern France and the Bourgion Jalliou music festival, which was such a success that they were invited back last month as special guests for the 2004 Fete de la Musique (National Music Festival). For these gigs the original front man Brett Arrellano was replaced by Tim "Rock Stock" when the former decided to return to his native land.

This years festival appearances saw them headlining the pre-festival show at the town's premier indoor venue in front of 1,200 people, and at the festival next day they had a prime evening slot on the main stage watched by a very appreciative crowd of four thousand people. Apparently these appearances have generated offers from several European agents, and tours in Germany and Switzerland as well as Scandinavia are being planned during the coming months. Under their new management company (Luton's Teamwork), the band has created significant interest at home, and negotiations are underway with major record companies, publishers and agents. You can get a chance to see them playing on their home turf on Saturday (July 24) when they are appearing at The George II in Bute Street on will feature a special live preview of their album. Check out their website on [www.overeasymusic.co.uk](http://www.overeasymusic.co.uk)

Tomorrow night (Thursday) you can catch some award winning artists of a different ilk at The Cricketers, just on the edge of Redbourn Common. The finalists of the St Albans' festival New Roots competition, Frances Kempster (accompanied by Steve Seeger) and Simon Stevenson will be performing in this intimate acoustic music venue which takes place every fortnight. The annual competition is designed to showcase and encourage new artists by providing a stage and good advice from well known practitioners in the current music scene. Frances is described as having a wonderful voice which is augmented by her partner Steve on guitar and harmonica while Simon's range of styles with guitar and voice is said to have impressed everyone who heard him. Support for the night will be a past finalist talented fiddle player singer composer Katriona who will be accompanied by her also very talented father Byron. So get down there and see who's going to be in the next generation of folk stars. For further details contact the club on 01582-452954 or 07850-163241 or by visiting their website on [www.redbournfolkclub.org.uk](http://www.redbournfolkclub.org.uk)

---

## 28/Jul/2004 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

Local singer/Songwriter Graham Robins tells me that he is about to release a new album in the autumn. Graham who, with his band **Soul Survivors** had a hit with Vinny Jones (Whooley Bully), is a well respected musician on both the local and national music scene. His 1997 CD **Spirit Within** – which was released on the Luton based 33 Records - received considerable airplay and plenty of good reviews. Graham says that his material has become more soulful of late, with leanings towards soul and rhythm and blues, reminiscent in places to the great Sam Cooke. As a taster to the new release, he will be gigging at 'The White Swan, Dunstable on Sunday August 8, accompanied by keyboard player Roj Lewis who has recently been performing with 'Van the Band, a classy tribute to the great Van Morrison.

It looks like there is quite a bit of music happening at the Hat Factory this week with **Kabukiman** playing at the cellar bar tomorrow (Thursday 29). The band is described as “Five guys with wildly different taste trying to make it all work. But it does!!!!”. This tells me absolutely nothing about what style of music is on offer, I presume it's an Indie/alternative band of some kind but your guess is as good as mine. If you want to fork out £4 then you can find out what they sound like. There is more information about Friday night's gig when Mission Promotions presents an evening of soul and gospel music from **Oxygenate** featuring: Gersham Brown, Natalie Phillips, Nyasha, Beverley Trotman and DJ Mack. On Saturday (July 31) the West Country outfit **Blackbud** will be rocking the joint with their Jimi Hendrix influenced funk and blues music. All these gigs take place at the Basement One venue and doors open at 7:30pm and entry is £5 for the Friday and Saturday gigs.

If you're in a band, or manage one, you might be interested to know that a new version of the Unsigned Guide is now available. This handbook is full of good advice and essential music industry contact information required that you need to navigate the complex music business. Billed as the definitive music industry directory it has over 6,000 individual entries along with information supplied by BBC Radio 1's OneMusic team, giving a realistic take on the current UK music industry from the perspective of an unsigned artist, band, manager or producer. There is also a useful Question and Answer section written by the PRS-MCPS Alliance – they are the people who distribute the royalty money from airplay and other kinds of performances. There are also sections that cover press and PR (Kabukiman take note!), independent promoters, product distributors and a recommended reading list. You can check it out on the web at [www.theunsignedguide.com](http://www.theunsignedguide.com)

---

Send gig information to “The Brian Heywood Column”, PO Box 649, Dunstable, Beds, LU5 4XD or [info@lutonscene.com](mailto:info@lutonscene.com). A search-able archive of the column is available on the web at [www.lutonscene.com](http://www.lutonscene.com)

---

© Copyright 2004 - B Heywood