

## 4/Jan/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Ringling in the New*

It doesn't seem like a year ago I was saying "Things are still a bit quiet on the local live music circuit" but since then we've had some good news with new promoters such as **PDMmusic** and **Shoot the Sun** raising their heads above the parapet. There has also been some big stage action in the local scene with a new alternative music festival at Luton Hoo, a successful (and expanded) Dunstable Folk & Dance Festival and of course you don't need me to tell you about the Luton Carnival music stages. On the band's side there has been the usual amount of churn on the scene with bands like **Imicus** and **Bowfinger** standing



out from the crowd and local rockers **Imperial Vipers** getting their single 'Promised Land' into the BBC Radio 1 rock chart as the highest new entry. The Luton Borough Council's support of the Hat Factory Arts Centre and **Headstart** project has also helped to improve the local infrastructure of the local music scene.

Another piece of good news is that local musicians Caz and John Devine had a baby daughter on Boxing Day who weighed in at a healthy 8lbs and has been named Erin Elizabeth. Caz's plays sax with Mike Chase's Grapevine Blues Band ([www.grapevineblues.com](http://www.grapevineblues.com)) while John plays keyboards, whistles and pipes for Wild Willy Barrett's band Sleeping Dogz ([www.sleepingdogz.co.uk](http://www.sleepingdogz.co.uk)) so the new addition to the local music scene has quite a musical heritage to live up to!

The first gig of the PDMmusic year is at The Exchange on Sunday (Jan 8) with the welcome return of the **Penny Racers Last Journey** who will be supported on the night by **Violet Violet** and **The Adenoids**. For more information about the PDM programming and directions check out their website at [www.pdmusic.com](http://www.pdmusic.com). Bands who are interested in playing at these gigs should send a demo CD and band bio to PDM Music Promotions, 89 Third Avenue, Luton, Beds, LU3 3ER or email [promo@pdmusic.com](mailto:promo@pdmusic.com)

**Life & Times** will be playing over at the Baldock & Letchworth Folk Club at The Orange Tree on Norton Road in Baldock tonight (Wednesday). The duo consists of Barry Goodman and Graham Meek who perform songs about life in Bedfordshire life accompanied by guitar and melodeon with lots of humour and local tales thrown in as well. The music starts at 8.30pm and tickets are £6 (members), £5 (concessions) and £7 (non-members) with accompanied children free (2 per adult). For more information contact Alan Hewson on 0845 123 2656 or email [alan@madnanny.co.uk](mailto:alan@madnanny.co.uk)

The next Dunstable Tyre Kickers' Ceilidh / Barn / Bush Dance will be on Friday week (Jan 13) at St Mary's Social Club in West Street Dunstable. Caller will be Liam Robinson and the band will be MoonDance and the evening will have a definite Aussie feel to celebrate Australia Day later on in the month. For more information see [www.roots66.net/tkc](http://www.roots66.net/tkc) or call 01582-475655.

## 11/Jan/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Thread's on the Loose.*

Awarding winning Luton band **Loose Thread** are back. After taking some time off to write new material, they are back and raring to go. In fact, they are so ready that you can go and see them next Thursday (Jan 19) at the Arena Tavern in Letchworth along with another of Luton's favourite bands - **Bowfinger**. If you can't make a weekday gig, then both bands are also appearing at Bedford Esquires on the following Sunday (Jan 22). Penni, the band's publicist, tells me that there will be more upcoming dates so stay tuned or check out the website at [www.loosethread.co.uk](http://www.loosethread.co.uk).

On Saturday (Jan 14) DTA Promotions are kicking off their 2006 programme of metal and emo bands from around Herts, Beds and beyond. DTA promotions, started out as a brainchild of Andy O'Hara and David Brady, are launching into the New Year with a harmonious 'kerrang'. The gig will be at the Luton University Students' Union in Vicarage St, Luton and will feature; **From Grace**, **Her Words Kill**, **First Signs of Frost**, **Forever Falling** and **Prize Fight Winner**. **From Grace** are a five piece metalcore band from Chislehurst/Sidcup who are currently in the process of writing and recording an album with Stage Fright Records. **Her Words Kill** formed in the spring of 2003 and mixes a down and dirty style an angelic voice to create a sound driven as much by melody as by metal. **First Signs of Frost** cultivate a blend of progressive riffs, soaring vocals and technical drum patterns while **Forever Falling** are a four piece hardcore influenced melodic screamo band from Norwich and **Prize Fight Winner** take their influences from pop, punk and metal. Doors open at 7pm and entry is £5 (£3 for Luton Uni students) and tickets available from [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com) or on the door.

On Sunday (Jan 15) you can see **Third Law**, **The Occasion** and **Fozz** at The Park in Park Street, Luton. **Third Law** pedals a very classy and appealingly melodic hard rock with quite a retro feel, which reminds me a bit of **Midnight Oil** and the Aussie rock brigade. The **Occasion** features **Andy Sizmur** and **Andy Paris** who used to front **Too Far Gone** and now are one of the mainstays of the Luton music scene. **Fozz** are from just up the M1 and have been described as "Better than Travis, as good as Coldplay and have the inspiration Oasis have been lacking" by the MK Citizen. The music starts at 8pm, free entry.

Don't forget that the next Dunstable Tyre Kickers' Ceilidh / Barn / Bush Dance will be on Friday week (Jan 13) at St Mary's Social Club in West Street Dunstable. Caller will be Liam Robinson who has been making a name for himself both locally and on the national ceilidh scene. The band will be MoonDance and the evening will have a definite Aussie feel to celebrate Australia Day later on in the month. For more information see [www.roots66.net/tkc](http://www.roots66.net/tkc) or call 01582-475655.



## 18/Jan/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Catch the Van man...*

**Graham Robins**, one of the area's most experienced singer / songwriters, is appearing at the White Swan in High Street South, Dunstable on Saturday (Jan 21). He'll have a bunch of his friends along to help him out with performing material from his forthcoming album and they are also set to belt out a load of classic Van Morrison tunes. Graham's been around the block a few times since he began performing in the 60's, cutting his musical teeth opening shows for the likes of Amen Corner, Geno Washington John Baldry, Georgie Fame and The Blue Flames and many others. He went on to develop into a fine song-writer and now he fronts a great band bringing all those years of experience into one great package. His performance and writing style has been likened to Van Morrison and Paul Brady and he has a powerfully soulful voice a great stage persona. I last saw him at the Sun Hotel in Hitchin where he was on the bill with Little Johnny England and showed that even in a duo setting – in this case with local guitar hero **Rik Taylor** – he could hold his own against a full rock band. The music starts at 9pm, check it out.



Also on Saturday you can check out **Interlock, Bilker, Elements of Refusal** and **The Conflict Theory** at the Luton University Students' Union. The music kicks off at 7pm and tickets cost £5, either direct from the Student Union or you can purchase on the web from [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com). Note that you have to bring ID if you want to buy alcohol from the bar.

Paul from local promoter PDM tells me that they are starting up a membership club for people and bands that use their range of services. By signing up people get discounted entry to PDM promoted gigs at the Exchange, a free CD (later in the year) of performances recorded at gigs, discounts on photography and web services and one gig a year will be designated as free entry for members. For more information follow the Club PDM link on their website at [www.pdmmusic.com](http://www.pdmmusic.com)

Don't forget that the first Headstart Jam Night of 2006 kicks off tonight at the Hat Factory in Bute Street, Luton. This 'open mic' Jam night is held fortnightly on a Wednesday and has been going since September last year. The idea is to give individual musicians and groups the opportunity to perform live to the gathered audience in a professional setting. The venue has a high quality PA and sound engineer and entry is free to both members of the public and guests of the performers. The venue also has a licensed bar area and is accessible for disabled users. The evening is hosted by local band **Nemo**, for more information and some video clips of past performances checkout the Headstart Jam link at <http://headstartproject.org> or call James on 01582-417878.

## 25/Jan/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Local Music Scene Flourishing*

On Sunday (Jan 29) you can catch local band **Tetra'tum** at The White Horse in High St North, Dunstable. The gig should have a party atmosphere as they are celebrating their second birthday and they've got some special guests lined up to add to the fun with **Honeymoon On Mars** and **Down In Flames** sharing the bill. The **Tetra'tum** set mixes rock, punk and blues originals together with a sprinkling of covers, to get their own unique 'brand' of music. The four piece band is fronted by vocalist and lyricist **Zeph** on vocals, whose sultry demeanour hides a dark secret which I'm not at liberty to divulge (you'll have to go to the gig and ask her!). The rest of the band comprises of **Didge** on guitar and didgeridoo, scouser **Steve-G** on bass and **Slayer Stevie-B** on drums. On a more serious note, the band has helped to raise over £2,000 for The Spinal Injuries Association charity ([www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk)) since they formed. The music starts at 7:30pm and entry is free; see [www.tetratum.com](http://www.tetratum.com) for more information, sound and video clips.



On Saturday (Jan 28) **Skindred** are playing down at the University of Luton Student Union (in Vicarage Street) with support from **Fell Silent**, **Novacaine** and **Adzuki**. **Skindred** are a ragga-metal four piece outfit from Newport who will be bringing their unique brand of music to Luton before they head out on tour supporting **Soulfly**. The doors open at 7pm and tickets are £7 in advance from Student Union or online from [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com)

If you want something a little more laid back on Saturday, then you can catch singer / songwriter **Charlie Barnard** at the Hat Factory in Bute St, Luton. Charlie has come a long way since his days with Milton Keynes based band 'The Dead Girls' and has spent his time writing new material and slowly building a strong following for his whimsical folksy pop tunes. His songs contain elements of the psychedelic era inspired by Syd Barret and Edgar Allen Poe, whimsical yet childlike, sometimes with a dark side yet very English. His charismatic stage persona makes him a new act to watch, for more information call The Hat Factory Box office on 01582 878100.

On Tuesday (Jan 31) you can get a dose of pop-punk from upcoming Luton band **Hammerfluff**, with support from bands from **Modus Vivendi**, **The Raid** and **Final Sounds**. The gig is at the Cork and Bull in Park Street (Luton) and doors at 7pm. Tickets cost just £4 and you can more information from 0773-6840196 or on the web at [www.dtapromo.co.uk](http://www.dtapromo.co.uk)

---

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](mailto:info@lutonscene.com). A search-able archive of the column is available on the web at <http://www.lutonscene.com>

---

© Copyright 2006 - B Heywood