

1/Feb/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Pavlov's Cat rings a bell...

Next Wednesday (Feb 8) there's a special treat in store for anyone who can over to see James Hibbins' band **Pavlov's Cat** playing over to the Orange Tree in Baldock (Norton Rd, SG7, 5AW). I first came across this Anglia based ensemble when a sampler CD I was mastering included a track off their Burlington Road album. The track really got under my skin so I listened to the rest of the album and it has been constantly on my CD/MP3 play list ever since. The music crosses over from acoustic rock to electric folk/roots with gothic elements in songs like 'Lord Thomas', 'Ghost Song' and 'She Moves through the Fair', to topical observations in 'Backyard' and engaging story lines – ala' classic Squeeze– in the title track. This is crossover acoustic rock at its best; powerful, lyric songs, often with a wry outlook on life while remaining totally accessible (www.pavlovscat.co.uk).



The support for the night will be from Scottish folk singer/guitarist **Hamish Currie** who has a reputation for giving a lively and highly entertaining performance which he demonstrated a couple of years ago at the Dunstable Folk Festival. Originally from the east coast of Scotland where his first experiences of acoustic music were at White Heather Club with performers like Hamish Imlach and Billy Connolly (www.hamishcurrie.me.uk). The music at the Orange usually kicks off around 8pm and you can get more information about the gig from Alan Hewson on 0845 123 2656 or by email from madnanny@questor-cp.co.uk

Local band **Reverie** will be supporting **Morning Runner** tonight (Wednesday) at the Dublin Castle in Camden. **Morning Runner** is currently being featured on MTV2 and their single is being aired on XFM so it should be a good crowd. You can check to see if there are any tickets left at www.ticketweb.co.uk or www.wegotickets.com. Reverie also tell me that they've finally finished their new single which is being released by Luton's Latent Lemon Records (www.latentlemon.co.uk) and they should have copies available tonight at the Camden gig. If you can't make it down to London then you can catch Reverie at the Luton University Students' Union next month (March 4) supporting **Second Smile**.

If you missed local rockers **tetra'tum** on Sunday then you can get a second chance to hear them on Saturday (Feb 4) at the Greyhound in High St South, Dunstable. The band plays a varied set of original rock seasoned with a handful of covers. Lead singer **Zeph** has been compared to Hazel O'Connor, Blondie and Siouxsie Sioux so the band's sound has a punky, gritty edge. The music starts at 9pm and finishes at 2am and entry is free.

Here's an initiative that the local council could take on board to increase the job opportunities for local musicians. Mike Freeman, a musician I know who's based in Portland (USA), emailed me this news report from his local equivalent on the News/Gazette. "In the unusually progressive community of Rajahmundry in central India, the city's revenue department has taken a novel approach to those who are late on their taxes. Bands of drummers set up outside each scofflaw's home and pound away, day and night until they square their accounts. According to Reuters, "One week of incessant drumming has cleared 18% of the backlog." One way to keep music alive!

8/Feb/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

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It's a Flook....

Top folk instrumental band **Flook** are celebrating 10 years on the road this year and you can see them on Sunday (Feb 12) at Hitchin when they play at a venue described by the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards last year as the Best Folk Club in Britain. This will be the band's second visit to the club and they'll be demonstrating their unique combination of flutes played by **Brian Finnegan** and **Sarah Allen**, underpinned by fluid guitar work of **Ed Boyd** and the hugely impressive bodhran playing of **John Jo Kelly**. Sharing the bill will be the next generation of the Doonan Family Band - **Rosie Doonan** and **Ben Murray**. The duo sings traditional songs with original arrangements and also writes surprisingly mature and memorable songs. Rosie and Ben say that they absorbed folk music from their fathers who were both in the legendary folk/rock band 'Hedgehog Pie' and are currently in the 'Doonan Family Band'. The club takes place in the function room at the back of the Sun Hotel in Sun Street Hitchin and the music starts at around 8pm. You will probably have to book tickets in advance for this one as it's bound to sell out. Call Maureen on 01462 812391 or check out the website at www.hitchinfofolkclub.co.uk



Don't forget that tonight (Wednesday) you can catch James Hibbins' fantastic folk/rock band **Pavlov's Cat** (www.pavlovscat.co.uk) playing over to the Orange Tree in Baldock along with support from singer / guitarist **Hamish Currie**. The music at the Orange (Norton Rd, SG7, 5AW) usually kicks off around 8pm and you can get more information about the gig from Alan Hewson on 0845 123 2656 or by email from madnanny@questor-cp.co.uk

If you can't make it to these gigs then followers of folk and roots music might like to check out a new Internet based radio station called **Radio BritFolk**. The station has been set up by a group of professional folk performers with the idea of raising the profile of music from and of Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England. The whole thing kicked off when a bunch of performers were complaining about the lack of access to the airwaves. **Tom Bliss**, in true Hollywood tradition, suggested that they get together and start their own. So Radio BritFolk was born with new programmes every week made by well known names from the folk world such as Jez Lowe along with a billboard of back to back tracks which changes continuously. You can hear regular 'spins' shows plus folk documentaries and even workshops. One of the big attractions is that it's a 'listen on demand' format – so you can choose your own time for listening. The current week's programmes are free or you can pay a small subscription to access the archives and see what you've been missing since Radio BritFolk launched on July 1st 2005. Go to www.radiobritfolk.co.uk to check it out, and who knows, you might even hear one of my bands.



15/Feb/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

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Complex Music Plan



Drakey from the band **Delphian Complex** dropped me an 'e' last week to let me know about their latest project. The band, who have a number of members from Bedfordshire, combine beats and electronics with intense guitars to give an interesting fusion of dance oriented brooding electro-rock and guitar-based indie rock. Anyway, they are promoting their new single 'Jack - knife' released on February 27th on 24 Records at a series of regular free entry gigs at various locations around the country. In fact they will be launching the new CD at Luton's very own arts venue, The Hat Factory next Thursday (Feb 23).

Local heroes **Bowfinger** will be helping them out along with the Bedford based electronica outfit, Microphyst.

The band are putting on these gigs with the hope of helping to build the local music community by showcasing different genres to crowds who may not have heard some of these bands or even musical styles before. The music kicks off at 7:30pm and goes on till 1am and is free. For more info and sound clips check out

www.thedelphiancomplex.com

While on the subject of singles, local band **Reverie** tells me that their single "On The Fence", released through Luton's premiere independent label Latent Lemon Recordings, is now available in selected independent stores and at gigs. If you like getting your music down the wire then as of the beginning of this week they plan to make it available as a free download via the band's website at www.reverieuk.com. You can also tap into the real thing on Saturday March 4th when they are playing down at the Luton University Student Union in Park St. when they are supporting **Second Smile**.

Local stadium rock superstars in waiting, The Imperial Vipers, tell me that that they are back on the road from then end of this week (Feb 17) kicking off at The Purple Turtle, Reading with the first local gig of the tour at the Wheatsheaf in Dunstable on March 4th. Their new single 'Jewels' will be released at the end of the month (Mar 27) and will be available on 2 track CD (Track 2 - Scars Alone), 3 track CD, (Track 2&3 - acoustic versions of Jewels and Kick a Hole) and a limited edition numbered RED Vinyl 7" as well as a download. All versions of the single will be available through HMV and all good record shops, so get your orders in early to avoid disappointment. You can check out all their tour dates on www.imperialvipers.com.

For a more acoustic experience, I hear that the Globe in Winfield Street, Dunstable have started a regular acoustic 'open mic' night on Tuesdays. The event is being hosted by Ric from local acoustic Americana band **Sons of the Soil** and my informant tells me that the Globe is an intimate venue with musicians and audience sitting together in a warm, friendly atmosphere which helps the more inexperienced player to 'have a go' in this informal setting. The pub also has ten real ales on tap along with a range of continental beers help lubricate the proceedings.

22/Feb/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

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A Packed Music Programme...

It looks like it's going to be a great week for live music in Luton this week, starting off tonight (Wednesday) with local independent funk rockers **Grief Society** playing down at the Horn in Victoria St, St Albans to promote their current single - Time Travel. If you can't get down to the gig then you can buy the CD online at www.cdbaby.com/grief3 or via www.amazon.co.uk

Tomorrow night (Thursday) you are spoilt for choice with a new indie / rock band called **The Suspects** who will be following up a packed out night at The Well, with a gig at Eddie's Bar in Luton. The band who play a mix of covers and original material has already been featured in our sister paper the Herald and Post. Also, as mentioned last week, **Delphian Complex** will be promoting their new single 'Jack - knife' at The Hat Factory along with the help of local favourites **Bowfinger** who will be support for the night. As both of these venues are close to each other and entry is free you should be able to catch both of these gigs.

On Friday (Feb 24) another bunch of local heroes - **Loose Thread** – will be playing their bouncy songs with big riffs over at The Well in Hightown, Luton along with local rockers **Phonic Rapture**. Loose Thread is back on the gig circuit after taking some time off to develop new material. For up-to-date news and music downloads check out their website at www.loosethread.co.uk



On Saturday you can catch no less than five bands at the University of Luton Student Union when DTA promotions present **Failsafe**, **The River Club**, **Saving Aimee**, **The Waterfront** and **Hammerfluff**. The music ranges from straight up punk to reggae through post hardcore with a hint of metal (Failsafe), power riffing and synth patterns (The River Club), pop punk with catchy choruses (Saving Aimee) and good time rock and roll crossed with bouncy punk (Hammerfluff). The music starts off at 7pm and it costs £5 to get in. For more information check www.dtapromo.co.uk.

On Sunday, if you can stand the pace, you can see **Blumunki**, **The Ruby Shoes** and **Tetra'tum** at the Exchange in Kings St, Luton. Blumunki play a punk rock fusion with a bit of Lou Reed edge to vocals and this is their first headline slot at the Exchange. The Ruby Shoes combine pounding beats with seductive guitars and glam melodies while Tetra'tum play a more spacious, atmospheric style of rock. Doors open 8pm - £4 admission (or £3 for Club PDM Members or with a flier available from the bands, the pub or www.pdmmusic.com). The Exchange is an over 18s only venue. For more information email info@pdmmusic.com

Finally, the date has been set for this year's Togfest Music Festival at Bradwell Abbey in Milton Keynes - June 24. This event has grown from a one off party into one of the biggest local general music festivals which features twelve hours of music and four stages. Anyone who wants a shot at playing a Togfest stage should telephone the festival office on 01908 313413 or check out www.togfest.org for more details.

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>.

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