

04/Oct/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

The sounds of New Orleans hit Tring



Trad Jazz fans are in for a treat on Sunday with the opening of a brand new live jazz venue in Tring called "Satchmo's" (Victoria Hall, Akeman Street). One of the UK's top jazz promoters has lined up an exciting programme of top class shows which will kick off with **This Joint Is Jumpin'** - a bouncing and spicy tribute to top jazz pianist and vocalist **Fats Waller**. Pianist **Martin Litton** along with the **John Petters Swing Band** will be playing some of Fats' greatest songs like Ain't Misbehavin', Honeysuckle Rose and My Very Good Friend The Milkman. Piano man Martin actually grew up just down the road in Berkhamsted and is arguably the finest pianist in the Waller style in the UK and has played with virtually every top name on the jazz circuit including Kenny Ball and Humphrey Lyttelton.

The band is led by drummer **John Petters** who is one of the busiest musicians on the swing circuit with explosive solo style, modelled on the Gene Krupa's pounding drumnastics of the '30s which guarantees that the music will cook. Featured on cornet will be another local jazz star, and former BBC cornettist, **Chez Chesterman**, who led the first featured jazz band on the Terry Wogan Show. Sunday's gig will be the first of a regular series taking place on the second Sunday each month. Tickets will be £10.00 in advance or £12 on the night (Box Office credit card hotline: 0800 496 0673). Satchmo's is a 'Bring Your Own' venue so there will be no refreshments on sale. Further information is available on www.traditional-jazz.com or E-mail mtjpost@traditional-jazz.com

If you missed **The Suspects** when they played down at Bellini's in Luton last week then you can get another chance to hear them on Saturday (Oct 7) when they open the afternoon slot at the Barfly in Camden. The band recently headlined at the Dublin Castle and impressed the management so much that they booked them into one of London's hottest venues. Chief Suspect Steve also tells me that they will be back in the studio in later this month doing a new recording with local label Latent Lemon so things seem to be moving right along for the frolicsome foursome. Anyway, back to the Barfly, the band kicks off at 2pm. See www.lemonrock.com/barflycamden for more info on the venue.

If you want something a bit closer to home then the Weight Promotions have a gig down at the Luton University Union on Saturday which will be featuring four bands; **Dolls House**, **Novacaine**, **Noon Layer Drive** and **Five Mile Drive**. The gig is a 14+ and the music starts at 7:30pm and entry is just £3. For more information call Claire on 07905-575065.

The Headstart Project is putting on a series of free music business courses at their local headquarters at the Hat Factory in Bute St, Luton. The courses kick off on October 11 with "Starting your Business" and will be followed in subsequent weeks with Business Management, Marketing yourself, Winning Business and getting Gigs and Getting an Arts Grant. See www.headstartproject.org for more information.

11/Oct/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

The Leighton Buzz

On Saturday you can catch a whole day's worth of entertainment when the annual Living History Heritage Day takes place in Leighton Buzzard's town centre from 10.00am to 3.30pm. This year the popular community festival will be celebrating the 1950's as well as exploring the history of the town's Italian, Polish and Czech communities. From 10:30am at the Market Cross you can catch Leighton "old boys" **The Pink Cardiacs** who will be performing classic rock and roll numbers from the late 50's and early 60's along with a Jive Display by local rock and roll enthusiasts.

Over in North Street you'll be able to tuck into some regional Italian dishes and wines and see how pasta is prepared and made by hand. At 11.30 am and 1.30 pm the Italian band **Falcon** will be playing a selection of traditional and modern songs interspersed with dance displays from the **The Wawel Polish Dance Troupe**. You can catch some more Polish music at noon and 2pm when **The Schola Polish Choir** will be performing traditional songs in the Church. Also at 10.30am local folk duo **Life and Times** will be performing self-penned songs in the Square based on local history. They will also be performing later at the All Saints Church at 1.00 pm

If you're looking to hear some good hard edged power rock/pop then you can see **The Presidents of Pop** over at Esquire's in Bedford on Friday, or at the Green Room in Welwyn Garden City on Saturday. For more information about the band check out www.myspace.com/presidentsofparkstreet

I hear from Paul at PDM Promotions (www.pdmmusic.com) that, with the support of Arts Development Unit of Luton Borough Council, the Luton Promoters' Forum is to be re-launched. The idea is to provide a way for Promoters working in the town to talk to each other, make sure gigs don't clash, as well as have a chance to share expertise and so on. For more information see the forum's web page at www.luprofor.co.uk. The site has a message board for bands who are interested in playing in Luton to get their information directly to the local Promoters.

On Friday this month's Tyre Kickers' Ceilidh in Dunstable will feature my band **MoonDance** along with caller **Fee Lock** calling and special guest musician **Liam Robinson**. This gig will be a very special one for me and will feature a host of special guest musicians to augment the usual MoonDance line up. The band is a long-standing stalwart of the burgeoning 'e-ceilidh' movement, which is a mix of English and Celtic social dance where the 'dancing' is more important than getting it 'right' and the purpose is to party.

The venue is at St Mary's Social Club in West St which is about a minutes walk from the big intersection in the middle of Dunstable. There is plenty of parking and there will be a bar. Doors open at 8pm and tickets £6 (£3 conc) and under 12's get in free. See <http://www.moondance.org.uk/>, <http://www.roots66.net/tkcor> or call 01582-475655 for more details.

18/Oct/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Taking a Shine on Tyke Tyler

Local Indie rockers - the **Tyke Tyler Band** - are playing over at the Celtic Club in Luton along with the **Presidents of Park Street** on Friday. The **Tyke Tylers** are a trio made up of **Brian McCrossan** (guitar/vocals), **Richard Herity** (drums) and **Martin Kinneavy** (bass/vocals) and have been gigging out for about a year now. The band was previously known as **The Shine** who have been gigging around the local scene for about five years. The band's influences are pretty diverse, ranging from Led Zeppelin to Johnny Cash; Richard tells me that they recently played at the Inigo Bar in Clapham and they went down so well that they have been invited back again to play there next Tuesday (Oct 24). The band is currently recording in their new studio - email brianmccrossan@yahoo.co.uk if you want to find out more. Friday's gig kicks off at 4pm at the Celtic club in Cobhan St (off Park St) in Luton, for more information on the bands go to myspace.com and check shinetheband and presidentsofparkstreet.



On Saturday you can catch **Firstborn**, **Dead Sea Sound**, **Sion**, **TBA** (the band) and **Miscellanea** over at the Students' Union at the Luton Campus of the University of Bedfordshire (was Luton University). The **Firstborn** (www.firstbornmusic.com) are Harpenden's answer for passionate melodic big chorus rock and they have already appeared on the 'Taste of Chaos' tour bill. While **Sion** (www.siononline.com) are a 5-piece, touring, energetic alt-rock band from Andover, Hampshire. Entry is £5 and the doors open at 7pm, this is a 14+ gig.

On Tuesday (Oct 24) you can catch a mix of catchy melodies and a dose of heavy metal when PDM presents **Knieval Genius** and local heavy metal band **Necrosadistic Goat Torture** in the Gig Room at the Hat Factory in Bute St, Luton. **Knieval Genius** is four guys with the knack of up-beat innovative song writing coupled with a highly enthusiastic live show. Esquires in Bedford reckon that they're "a lit firework that hasn't gone off yet!". This PDM promoted gig is part of a series that aims to present the freshest new sounds in Luton, giving you a chance to get in on the ground floor of the latest hot new bands. Tickets are £3 on the door and the music starts at 8pm.

On Wednesday (Oct 25) also down at the Hat Factory Arts centre the Headstart project are launching a compilation CD "Live in Luton" which features a artists that have appeared at the regular Head Jams over the past eighteen months. The CD features a lot of local talent and presents a mixture of rock, pop, acoustic, blues, Jazz, classical music. The CD is being released through local Label 33 Records and will be available through the Headstart website (www.headstartproject.org), from the hat Factory and from various local stores as well. On Wednesday the music starts at 8pm and the participating bands will be on hand to sign copies and to take questions from guests. Entry is free.

25/Oct/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column



Playing to End Poverty

Everybody knows that music is a great force for good in the world but this month we've been seeing the practical aspect of as bands right across the country come together to raise money for Oxfam. **Oxjam** is a sort of distributed music festival and is Oxfam's biggest, most ambitious, music event ever. The idea is that musicians, promoters organise music events to raise cash for Oxfam and this coming weekend you can do your bit supporting some local events.

Tomorrow you can hear some great original indie rock influenced by the likes of Oasis and Coldplay from **The Blue Teeth** (www.theblueteeth.com) at the Hat factory in Bute St, Luton. The band features local school teachers James Trapp (guitar/vocals) and Paul Ramsey (keyboards/vocals) along with Sam Allan (bass) and BBC Three Counties Radio producer Gareth Lloyd (drums). The high point of their set is a riotous rendition of "Johnny No Stars", an original song written to celebrate a luckless burger flipper at a famous fast food restaurant. David Lloyd will be the support act and entry will cost a mere £4. The action kicks off at 8pm and the proceeds go to help Oxfam eliminate poverty in the third world.

On Friday and Saturday you can catch a more eclectic mix of music over at the Radcliffe Centre, Church Street, Buckingham featuring **The Living Archive Band** from Milton Keynes, **David Catermole**, local singer / songwriter **Martyna** and **Udo Dolz**. On Saturday the music continues at the Radcliffe with the **Tomas and Maria Flamenco Company**, **Linda Watkins** and **John Howarth**. You can find a map of how to find the venue and ticket prices at www.fraserw.com/oxtickets.html.

Finally you can chill out on Monday (Oct 30) with an evening with the music of Brahms and the Schumanns at the Luton Library Theatre. The evening features the award-winning young pianist Danny Driver who will be playing music by Brahms, Robert and Clara Schumann and Richard Sisson, with a new piece inspired by the romantic couple. The doors open at 7.45pm and you can buy tickets in advance from the Box Office by calling 01582-547474.

By the time you read this I'll be at this year's WOMEX, Europe's biggest world music conference which is taking place in Seville again this year. This four day event combines music showcases, a trade fair, seminars and sessions on topics important to the promotion, production or performance of World Music throughout, well, the world actually. I'll be representing the UK's world and folk musicians as part of the Musicians' Union delegation and I plan to bring back a pile of interesting local music from 'out there'.

Andy Gordon from the George II pub in Luton tells me that he's going to be starting a new music night over there on Fridays. He says that he wants to help promote bands that play their own music. Anyone who wants to have a go should send a demo to Andy at the George II, 70 Bute Street, Luton.

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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 searchable archive of the column is available on the web at <http://www.lutonscene.com>.