

## 1/Nov/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *The Vipers' are back in Town*

Andy from DTA Promotions tells me that they have some really big gigs coming up at the Luton Campus University Union in November. The big names kick off this week with Dunstable's very own stadium rockers the **Imperial Vipers** ([www.imperial-vipers.com](http://www.imperial-vipers.com)) on Saturday. According to **Wevs**, the bands main songwriter and mad axe handler (i.e. he plays guitar) reckons that "the one thing that unites us really we are unashamed to say that we play no frills rock n roll". Sharing the bill on Saturday will be **Phonic Rapture** ([www.phonic-rapture.co.uk](http://www.phonic-rapture.co.uk)), **The Ruby Shoes** ([www.myspace.com/therubysshoes](http://www.myspace.com/therubysshoes)), **Son Of A Gun** ([www.myspace.com/sonofagun666](http://www.myspace.com/sonofagun666)) and **Joanovarc** ([www.myspace.com/joanovarc](http://www.myspace.com/joanovarc)) a London based all-girl trio pounding out classic rock licks.

If this is not enough, on Monday the massive ska-punk band **Spunge** ([www.myspace.com/spunge](http://www.myspace.com/spunge)) who have been regulars on the UK festival scene for over a decade with their musical trademark of catchy riffs and infectious chorus songs. Supporting them on Monday will be **More Than Normal** ([www.myspace.com/morethannormal](http://www.myspace.com/morethannormal)) who play a furious blend of new-school punk rock and melodic hardcore anthems, **Never So True** ([www.myspace.com/neversotrue](http://www.myspace.com/neversotrue)) and **Last Man Standing** ([www.myspace.com/lastmanstandinguk](http://www.myspace.com/lastmanstandinguk)) with a mix of catchy Ska and Punk influenced songs. Entry is £8 and the music starts at 7pm (14+ venue). See [www.dtapromo.co.uk](http://www.dtapromo.co.uk) for more information about both these gigs.



## 8/Nov/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### *Pedal to the Metal*



If you like your guitars loud and music heavy, then get on down to the Roman Way in Luton on Saturday for a new live music club. 'Metal City' promises to play an uncompromising non-stop set of loud hard rock and heavy metal. The programme kicks off with three top quality live bands from around the country and the local metal scene; **Elanors Tribute**, **HeKz** and **Trippy Wicked**. **Elanors Tribute** play catchy, original hard rock and is gaining quite a following in the local area. **HeKz** combine the sounds of Judas Priest and Iron Maiden and **Trippy Wicked's** from St Albans they describe themselves as "pirates rockin' the boat" with a heavy, tight and distinctive wall of sound. The doors open at 7pm and the music carries on till

12.30am with entry £3 (just £1 per band!). Metal City will be held on the second Saturday of each month at The Roman Way, Tomlinson Avenue, Lewsey. For further details and information how to find the venue, check out the website at [www.metalcity.co.uk](http://www.metalcity.co.uk).

On Sunday you can catch some indie rock and political pop from **KunK**, **Fahrenheit451** and **Poseidon** at The Exchange in King St, Luton. **KunK** draw their influences from bands such as Queens of the Stone Age, Pavement, The Fall and the Foo Fighters and have been featured performing as the theme song on an MTV2 (US) awards show called 'All That Rocks'. **Fahrenheit451** play a unique flavour of Big British indie-punk-rock with lots of tunes, a bit of anger, and a political sting in the tail while **Poseidon** list a set of influences ranging from Amplifier and Radiohead to Yes and Frank Zappa. The doors open at 8pm and admission is only one £1 thanks to a sponsorship deal from Fosters. Paul (PDM Promotions) tells me that they had over 80 people at our gig there last month which is pretty good for a Sunday in Luton. See [www.pdmusic.com](http://www.pdmusic.com) for more information.

Tomorrow night you can **James Chadwick** down at the Cricketers public house down in Redbourne (just off the Common). James was a finalist in last year's BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards and was featured on Mike Harding's Radio 2 folk programme at the end of last year with James being described by as one of "the cream of the UK's young acoustic folk and roots scene". He is an accomplished singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist hailing from a sleepy village on the Lincolnshire / Cambridgeshire border. Tickets £5 and can be ordered in advance from 01582 452954 or 07850 163241 or you can buy them on the door.

Next Thursday (Nov 16) you can catch **Bob Brozman** at the Hat Factory in Bute St, Luton. Tickets for Bob's gigs usually sell out so you'll have to be quick if you want to catch this master of slide, finger style and percussive guitar. Tickets cost £10, £8 concessions or £6 NUS and under 18's. Call the Box office on 01582 878115 for more information.

## 15/Nov/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### *The Gospel according to Jazz*

Next Thursday (Nov 23) you can hear the celebrated Gospel/Jazz saxophonist **Mike Parlett** when he appears over at the Hat Factory in Bute St, Luton. The gig is a result of a collaboration between Focus on Jazz and Three Counties Radio and will tap into the burgeoning Luton gospel scene with guest appearances from local vocalists **Beverly T, Alison Lewis** and **David Ferguson**. Mike's music has been described as "Smooth, controlled and refined" and as "contemplative spiritual jazz" by Musician Magazine which is published by the Musicians' Union, who know a thing or two about Jazz.



Parlett goes beyond the gospel and jazz scenes and you may well have heard his soulful and expressive sax on records by Take That, Simply Red and M People as well as performing at legendary jazz venues such as Ronnie Scott's and the Jazz Café. Doors open at 8pm and tickets cost £8 with concessions at £6 and £5 if you have an NUS card from the Box Office in Bute St or by phone on 01582 878100. If you do miss this gig then you will get a second chance as it will be recorded for BBC Three Counties Radio for transmission at a later date on G. focus.

Next Wednesday (Nov 22) both experienced and aspiring musicians can get a chance to perform to a wider audience as part of the regular Jam Nights promoted by the Headstart organisation at its Luton base in the Hat Factory. These gigs provide an opportunity for musicians, singers and other performers to try out new material and new collaborations, or just hone their stage craft. There is no charge to performers or audience and backline amps, drum kit, sound engineer and PA is supplied by the venue. The Headstart Project is dedicated to developing existing and new talent and musicians/bands and they can provide the facilities to produce demo CDs or DVDs, stage gigs and gain cheap access to the Hat Factory's professional recording studio. To find out how to get free tickets or to check out videos of previous performances point your favourite web browser at [www.headstartproject.org](http://www.headstartproject.org).

It seems strange that in this age of total informational access that it can be difficult to fine out about new and interesting music and artists. One source of information covering the roots, rock, blues and beyond is Rock'n'Reel magazine which has just been re-launched. When the magazine was first published in 1998 it was basically a fanzine with modest ambitions but quickly grew into a fully fledged magazine with a refreshingly alternative take on music reviews and features. By sidestepping the corporate magazine publishing world it cut past the commercial hype and I see bands of all genres with Rock'n'Reel quotes in their PR material. The latest incarnation of the magazine to hit the news stands is a one hundred and forty page glossy bi-monthly with its own distinctive cover mount CD 'Un-Herd' which includes music from right across the musical spectrum. See [www.rock-n-reel.co.uk](http://www.rock-n-reel.co.uk) for more details.

## 22/Nov/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *It's Folk by George!*

Tomorrow night you can see contemporary singer/songwriter **George Papavgeris** down at the Cricketers' which is just off the Common in Redbourn. George is a fairly new arrival to the acoustic music scene and in fact has only started writing songs in the last few years, which I find very surprising as he has the most amazing way with words. Still he hasn't hung about as he's already penned over 180 songs and released six albums of his evocative songs. George may describe his songs as "singing the praises of ordinary people" but they are being picked up by some extraordinary singers like Martyn Wyndham-Read, Roy Bailey, Andy Irvine, Vin Garbutt, Johnny Collins and Cockersdale asking him permission to sing his songs. He's even come to the attention of the godfather of British folk - Martin Carthy MBE - who has described George as "something special...". Tickets are available in advance or on the door at £5, for further information ring 01582 452954 or 07850 163241 or check it out on the web at [www.redbournfolkclub.org.uk](http://www.redbournfolkclub.org.uk).



If you fancy something a little heavier, then local rockers **Imicus** are supporting **Sacred Mother Tongue**, the brilliant **Losing Sun** and **Wolf Law** at Esquires in Bedford on Friday. **Imicus** features local music personality Andy Miller and their sound embraces the lighter, darker, melodic and heavier sides of rock music. You can download their latest album from the website ([www.imicusband.com](http://www.imicusband.com)) if you want to get a handle on their incredible dynamic sound. The music kicks off at 8pm and entry is only £5. For more information check out the website, email Andy on [Miller@Imicusband.com](mailto:Miller@Imicusband.com) or from the venue on 01234 340120 ([www.bedfordesquires.co.uk](http://www.bedfordesquires.co.uk)).

It is not often that we get the chance to see a Living Legend but on Saturday (Nov 25) **Chip Taylor** is playing over at the Radcliffe Centre, Church Street, Buckingham. You may not recognise the name but Chip is the man who wrote the monster hits 'Wild Thing' and 'Angel in the Morning' and has had his songs covered by The Troggs, Shaggy, Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, Frank Sinatra, Ike & Tina Turner, Dusty Springfield, The Pretenders - the list goes on and on. As a bizarre side-line he was also an incredibly successful gambler, so much so that at one time he and his partner were banned from all the casinos in Atlantic City! Chip will be appearing with young classically trained violinist from Texas - Carrie Rodriguez - who he met playing fiddle in a band in a record store during the South by South West festival in Texas in 2001. Since then they have released four albums starting with 'Let's Leave This Town' in 2002 and culminating in 'Red Dog Tracks' in 2005. The doors open at 6.45 pm tickets will cost £12.50 in advance and £15 on the door. You can hear some of their music on [www.trainwreckrecords.com](http://www.trainwreckrecords.com) and you can find more information at [www.empty-rooms.com](http://www.empty-rooms.com) or call 01280 821771.

## 29/Nov/2006 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Deck the Halls with Heavy Metal...*

December is almost upon us and I guess we can expect the media to go into its traditional feeding frenzy as everyone and their dog tries to mug you for your Christmas pennies. If you are looking for an antidote to the vapid sentimentality and ferocious commercialism of the average Twenty first century festive season then Paul Vitty tells me that Metal City are going to be putting on the heaviest Christmas party in town on Saturday over at The Roman Way. Leading the pack will be **Sacred Mother Tongue** who will be bringing their explosive live performance to Luton for the first time. Powered by awesome drums and soaring riffs they are just about to launch their latest EP and headline at Camden's legendary Underworld.



Also on the bill are Stevenage's **Sevaloco** will scythe through the tinsel with their vicious guitars, crushing drums and punishing vocals highlighting their brutal, yet melodic, metal. And if that's not enough then the line-up will be completed by the raw metal sonic assault of **Scar My Eyes**. From the sound of it, no prisoners will be taken and with entry just £3 entry for all three bands you're going to get a real festive bargain. The music starts at 7pm and The Roman Way is in Tomlinson Avenue, Luton. Check out [www.metalcity.co.uk](http://www.metalcity.co.uk) for more details.

If you are looking for something at the other end of the 'chill' spectrum then on Monday (Dec) you can catch **Stranger Station** at the Hat Factory in Bute St, Luton. The music is a really chilled out set of instrumentals that reside somewhere in the ambient sound space along with the likes of Brian Eno, Harold Budd, Keith Jarrett and Erik Satie. Simon from the band tells me that the band's CD "Gift of Storms" (another Christmas reference there) is available from the web at [www.blinkypromos.co.uk](http://www.blinkypromos.co.uk). This gig is a part of a series of an ongoing monthly residency at the Hat Factory and the music kicks off at 8:30pm.

The following night (Dec 5) you can tap into a diet of Indie orientated rock – also at the Hat Factory – when PDM put on one of their regular gigs featuring **The Culture** and **Presidents of Park Street** from Luton along with the London based band **Runner**. The Culture plays a set literate punk/pop with a line in urban commentary and other sordid tales while the Presidents of Park Street have been described as having a Talking Heads kind of groove with the odd Led Zeppelin harmony. The Runners originally got together in Oxford but did a runner to the big smoke from whence they pedal original songs that take no prisoners about dancing, LSD, and mobile phones - all sung in pure Glaswegian. Entry is £3 and the music starts at 8 pm (there is no age limit). Check out PDM's website at [www.pdmusic.com](http://www.pdmusic.com) for more information about this and future gigs.

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