

4/April/2007 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Keeping it Live!

Spring is here and the local music scene is putting up new shoots all over. With the advent of the Live Room bringing a fixed local music venue to augment DTA's University and PDM's basement bar gigs at the Hat Factory. If you add in the established pub gigs you get something called 'choice' which means that you can head on down to town and know that you'll get some good music without having to plan in advance to catch a good gig. This means that Luton is starting to look more like a city less like a one horse town.

This week we've got a packed programme of good music in the town. Tonight you can hear no less than six bands playing down at the Students' Union of the Luton campus of Bedfordshire University. The bands featured are **Elements of Refusal** (elementsofrefusal), **Vs. Akira** (vsakira), **The Eyes of A Traitor** (theeyesofatraitor), **Aortic Dissection** (aorticdissection), **Black Reverence** (blackreverencemusic) and **Sky of Hope** (skyofhope). The doors open at 7pm and entry is £5 with tickets for all shows available at www.wegotickets.com and www.ticketweb.co.uk. All shows are 14+ and so I.D. is required for alcohol. You can get more information at www.dtamusic.co.uk.

You can catch a new bud from an established local band with deep local roots on Friday when **Loose Thread** play at the Live Room at Charlie Brown's in Midland St, just by Luton Town railway station. The band achieved fame by winning both the Dunstable Battle of the Bands and topping the Luton News pop polls but they have just re-emerged on the local scene after a break with new material and the same great attitude that made them famous. You can check out there latest demo track on their website (www.loosethread.co.uk) or chat with them on MySpace (loosethreadrock).



On Saturday **Replicant** are playing mainly "Classic Rock" covers (Thin Lizzy, AC/DC, Free, Metallica, Pink Floyd, Judas Priest, Black Sabbath, Motorhead, etc) down at The Wheatsheaf in Dunstable. The music kicks off at 8:30 and entry is free.

On Tuesday (April 10) you can catch **Fozz**, **Knieval Genius** and **Third Law** at The Hat Factory basement bar at the next PDM gig. **Fozz** (fozzmusic) are quality indie pop with influences from Elvis Costello, Billy Bragg, Squeeze, and XTC while **Knieval Genius** their (knievalgenius) play muscular rock that tips its hat to Led Zeppelin, the Foo Fighters and the Deftones and **Third Law** (thirdlaw) are back with a new lead singer who's making his debut at this gig and the band tell me that they are more excited about the future they've been for a long time. The Hat Factory is in Bute St, Luton and the doors open 8pm with a £3 admission charge and no age restrictions.

Tip for bands and fans; check out www.lemonrock.com which has a really cool gig listing service, you can just type in your post code and get the gigs listed within a certain distance, it will even email you the list if you want. There're not many Luton bands on it yet so get cracking.

11/Apr/2007 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Kicking up a storm at Metal City



On Saturday you can catch a heavy metal storm in Luton when the next Metal City hits The Roman Way with the avowed aim of bringing fast-rising talent to the fore. The line-up includes **Slave To Nature** who are Bedfordshire's newest band full of new ideas and bright new talent and are determined to make their mark on the local scene. Metal City organiser and Vice Chairman of the Leagrave Youth Work Action Group (LYWAG) - Paul Vitty – tells me that they sound like “a fusion of Bullet For My Valentine, Trivium, Avenged Sevenfold and even a hint of Yngwie Malmsteen these guys are something fresh”. Also on the bill are **Black Reverence** whose mandate is to create a new sound of metal, by blending together - hardcore, death black, doom and heavy metal to produce a hard-hitting sound, complete with battle drums!

Luton-based band **Aortic Dissection** is also set to appear. Described as “A force to be reckoned with” by Bedford Metal after seeing them live, they went on to say that their “sound could be best described as blending the brutality of death metal acts like Job for a Cowboy, Psycroptic and Gorerotted with the intricate song writing of Tech-Metal bands like Sikhth and Necrophagist”. Doors open at 7pm, last entry 10:30, with music continuing until 12:30. Metal City takes place at The Roman Way in Tomlinson Avenue, Luton and entry is £3, see www.metalcity.co.uk for more details.

Tonight you can catch another band fest at the Student Union of the Luton campus of the University of Bedfordshire when you can get to see five bands for £5 (in advance or more on the door). The bands featured are **Her Words Kill** (herwordskill), **Without Thought** (withoutthought), **Scream! Shout! Say Nothing** (screamshoutsaynothing), **Proceed** (proceed) and **Siren Lake** (sirenlake) with their MySpace IDs in brackets. The doors open at 7pm and the show is 14+ gig, so take ID if you want a drink., and tickets for all shows available at www.wegottickets.com and www.ticketweb.co.uk . For more information see www.dtamusic.co.uk.

On Friday you can shake a leg to the big e-ceilidh sound of **MoonDance** at St Mary's Social Club in West Street Dunstable at this month's Chiltern Ceilidh (i.e. barn dance). This is the last Chiltern Ceilidh event until the Dunstable Festival at the end of August so don't miss it if you what a chance to dance locally. The caller will be **Bob Adams** who is an extremely experienced and popular caller who particularly enjoys working with people who have little or no experience of this kind of dance. Bob's easy going and friendly approach will coax the most reluctant of participants onto the dance floor. Bob has many years of experience of working at festivals and events in the UK and beyond. The event kicks off at 8pm and entry costs £6 for adults and £3 for concessions and under 16's with under 12's getting in free. See www.chilternceilidhs.info for more information and directions.

18/Apr/2007 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Humdinger of a gig

If you fancy hearing some laidback acoustic country music then you couldn't do much better than to mosey over to the Radcliffe Centre in Buckingham on Saturday to see **Hummingbird** (www.myspace.com/hummingbirdmusic) supported by **The Redlands Palomino Co Trio**

(www.myspace.com/theredlandspalominoco). **Hummingbird** is based around the voices of **Amy Wadge**, **Cathy Burton** and **Edwina Hayes**; three professional singers who decided in late 2005 that there was safety in numbers and so formed a band, named after the Gibson 'Hummingbird' guitar that Emmylou Harris uses. Their debut CD 'Tougher Than Love' was produced by the same team that made Sandi Thom's number one album and they are currently on tour as well as appearing at festivals throughout the summer - including Glastonbury. According to the Mail On Sunday **Hummingbird** are a "three piece girl band who avoid the typical pop act formula" and "apart from being hilariously funny and down to earth" they are "blessed with powerful unique voices that blend together effortlessly." It all sounds like a night to remember to me. The venue is the Radcliffe Centre, Buckingham and tickets are £10 in advance and £12.50 on the day with doors at 6.45pm. See www.empty-rooms.com for more details.



If you lean more towards Rhythm and Blues then dig out your porkpie hat, stick on your Blues' Brothers sunglasses and check out **The Cadillac Kings** (www.myspace.com/thecadillackings) over at the Hat Factory on Saturday. According to Blues in Britain Magazine the band are "unfailingly vibrant and entertaining" playing a set great rocking swing blues - a mix of original material of 40's and 50's influenced music and well chosen covers from T Bone Walker and Champion Jack Dupree. I've not heard the band but I have a great deal of respect for their keyboard player **Mike Adcock** who I know from when he lived down in St Albans. He must be one of the best roots/blues ivory tinklers in the business and plays a mean accordion to boot. Doors open at 8pm and tickets cost £9, £7 concessions and £6 for NUS card holders (Box Office - 01582 878100).

You may have seen the feature in last week's paper about a new regular gig I'm helping out with in Dunstable billed as 'Up the Swan'. There will be a different acoustic artist every month along with the celtic influenced original rock from my band - **enQ**. The first is tomorrow night and will kick off with Dunstable singer / songwriter **Emm** playing his intimate, hypnotic acoustic songs with Northampton based **Martyna** taking the stage next month (May 17). The idea is support local acoustic artists and act as a stepping stone between two or three song 'open mic' spots and a full length performance. Any local acoustic acts who want to take a stab at this can contact me at news@lutonscene.com or, even better, pop down tomorrow night and have a chat. The White Swan is at 91-93 High Street South, Dunstable, LU6 3SF (01582 667838) and entry is free. You can find **Emm** on MySpace at emmmusic and **enQ** at enquk.

25/Apr/2007 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Hit Me with that Rhythm Norman!

On Friday you can catch one of the best live acts on the UK music circuit when **The Blockheads** play

over at the Live Room at Charlie Brown's (just next to Luton Station). The band got together back in 1977 to promote **Ian Dury's** first album "New Boots and Panties" and the band was named from one of the tracks in the album. The combination of Ian's dry wit and cockney rhyming slang and the consummate musicianship of the band subsequently went on to have hits with "What a Waste", "Sex & Drugs & Rock 'n' Roll", "Hit me with Your Rhythm Stick" and "Reasons to be Cheerful, part 3". The band had pretty much wound down by the mid eighties apart from some benefit gigs and a series of hit and run gigs in the early nineties.



In 1996 Ian was diagnosed with cancer and, after recovering from the subsequent operation, was determined to do another album with **The Blockheads** which resulted in "Mr Lovepants" being released in 1998. The band started touring again to promote the album and Ian Dury's last performance was in February 2000 at the London Palladium; a month later he was dead. I saw them a couple of months ago down in London and can vouch that they're at the top of their game, performing a mix of Dury songs along with their own material and demonstrating both their amazing musicianship and performance skills to give a truly memorable gig. Tickets are £12.50 available from www.myspace.com/theliveroomluton or on the night with the whole thing kicking off at 8.30pm.

On Saturday you can catch a load of melodic metal at the Student's Union at the Luton campus of the University of Bedfordshire. Local lads **Imicus** are launching their new CD which is a follow up to their debut album "Resolution". The EP goes under the title of "Inveigle" and features four songs including the fans' favourite title track along with "An Isolation Dawn", "Visceral" and "Hopesfold" with first two songs also being available on Itunes. Miller from the band tells me that the new disc has already been received well by members of the industry with one reviewer citing the band as "surely destined for the big time!" (deadearnest.com). The party will be helped along by the some vibes from London based **Via Negativa**. You can check out the sound of both bands on MySpace at Imicus and vianegativa1.

Next Tuesday (May 1) local promoters PDM officially become a not-for-profit organisation and they're marking it with special show to kick off a month of gigs down at the Hat Factory in Bute St, Luton. The gig features the power indie trio **Blumunki**, a fun packed set of pop punk from **My Favourite Runner Up** and top quality indie with a touch of the Kings of Leon vocals and Stones riffs from **Chalou Saint Jude**. See www.pdmmusic.com for more information about the gigs and a rundown of the promotional activities of PDM.

--

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>. Brian is now on MySpace as well at enquk.