

5/Sept/2007 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Festive Dunstable

This year's Dunstable Folk Festival went down well with a packed ceilidh on the Friday night, a couple of great concerts on Saturday and Sunday as well the various other events around the Town over the weekend. I didn't get to the Saturday night concert as I was gigging myself but my reports are that, apart from a few slight sound glitches and a bit of drizzle, **The Rainbow Chasers, Roland Chadwick, Pentangle** and **Rick Christian** put on a great show. I was at the Sunday concert and was especially impressed by the **Sons of the Soil** who performed a set of up tempo Americana songs performed in the traditional way around a single microphone – just like the Soggy Bottom Boys in the film 'Oh Brother, Where Art Thou'.



The Grapevine Blues Band also played a stonking set ranging from Sonny Boy Williamson to Hendrix and featured the amazing guitar virtuosity of **Dr Ika** and some great sax breaks from **Caz**. Topping the bill was local Jazz singer and International Woman of the Year **Lauren Field** and her band and of course **Rick Christian** was on his usual good form playing a mix of classic covers and his own self penned songs. The residents of Dunstable should give their town council a big round of applause for bringing so much good music into the heart of the town. Special thanks should be given to the team at Grove House led by Shaun, Clair and Michelle that put the whole shebang together and ensured that the event ran smoothly.

After a nine day shutdown to allow for refurbishment **The Horn** in St Albans, which is one of the area's most active music venues, has come back online with a full programme of live music. The music kicked off last Friday with **Co Jones** and this week's batch starts off with OK Promotions Punk / Ska / Indie / Alt.Rock night (www.myspace.com/okpromotions), followed on Thursday by Trashville featuring **The Pocket Gods, Efflux, Ripside & The Argonauts** (www.trashville.co.uk), **Co Jones** are back there on Saturday playing some very classy covers (www.myspace.com/cojonesband) and on Sunday you can chill out to the semi acoustic sounds of Blue Angel Acoustic Café. The Horn is right next to the St Albans mainline railway station at the end of Victoria St and you can find out more about the gig lineup and the venue at www.thehorn.co.uk.

Closer to home, on Saturday Luton based good time rock and roll trio - **Portly, Fat and Schnieder** - are playing over at The Royal Hotel in Mill St (near the Galaxy Centre). The band consists of **Rob Bowers** (portly) on the drums, **Pete Boston** (looks like Schnieder out of Jaws) on guitars and vocals and **Garry Corcoran** (ex Devlin) on bass and lead vocals. The band plays a mix of music from the sixties onwards including the Kinks, Deep Purple, Jimi Hendrix, the Stereophonics, Ocean Colour Scene and anything else they think they can get away with! The band is on stage at 9:30pm and entry is free.

12/Sept/2007 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Finding Nemo in Luton

PDM's popular Gig Room event next week is an acoustic special featuring **Nemo**, **Grief Society** and **Dean Jones**. Nemo has been around the local scene since 2005 and revolves around the voice of **Char Ritch** and the guitar work of **Phil Knight** augmented by **Rob Knight** on bass, flautist **Andrea Patis** and **James Finney** on kit drums playing a mellow blend of different styles, ranging from folk to jazz, with influences including Tori Amos, Bob Dylan, R.E.M, Crowded House and Counting Crows. **Grief Society** fuse elements of powerpop, grunge funk and EMO but can also produce a powerful acoustic sound as demonstrated by the version of "You" on their MySpace page, which can be found at www.myspace.com/grieffsociety. The gig is next Thursday (Sept 20) at the Hat Factory in Bute St, Luton and the doors open at 8pm, entry is £3 and there is no age limit.



While we're at the Hat Factory it's worth mentioning the Jazz Jam there next Wednesday where you can go along and either chill out to some cool jazz sounds or play along with the resident band. Entry is £3 if you want to listen, £2 if you have an instrument or free to students with NUS card. You can more details on both of these gigs by calling the Box Office on 01582 878100.

I see that PDM has made a whole shed load of the photos Paul Curry has taken at their Hat Factory gigs available online at www.flickr.com/pdmmusic. As well as being the 'P' in PDM and the bass player for **Third Law**, Paul is very accomplished photographer as you can see if you look at the photos of a lot of Luton's favourite bands. Incidentally, on Tuesday you can see **Third Law** along with **Surveillance State Prisoners**, and **Naked Jenga** down at newly refurbished 'The Horn' music venue just down the road in St Albans.

I understand that The Horn is putting together a 'Hall of Fame' wall of memorabilia as well as web version to go online. So if you have anything that they could use such as old photo's, flyers, funny stories or interesting information then they'd love you to contact them at info@thehorn.co.uk, by calling them on 01727-853143 / 844627 or on the web at www.thehorn.co.uk.

The Nag's Head in High St North Dunstable is putting on bands on Wednesday nights and tonight you can see the local four piece hardcore / pop punk band **Forever Today**. You can contact the pub on 01582-661051 or check the venue out on MySpace at thenagsheddunstable or the band at forevertodaymusic.

You can hear **Carnaby Street** over at The Stag in Leighton Buzzard (at the end of Heath Rd). This five piece band sets out to recreate the music of the mid 60's British rock revival led by bands such as The Kinks, The Who and The Spencer Davis Group along with the sounds of bands they inspired such as The Jam and The Clash. Entry is free and you can get more information from 01525-372710.

MySpace Corner: This week's featured track on the **talkingmusic** MySpace page is September Rain from Nemo (www.myspace.com/nemoluton).

19/Sept/2007 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Country Legend and a regular Guy

The legendary American singer/songwriter **Guy Clark** is playing over at the Old Town Hall in Buckingham on Friday. Originally from Monahans in Texas, Clark began his career in Houston during the 1960s, influenced by blues legends like Mance Lipscomb and Lightnin' Hopkins as well as playing traditional folk tunes on the Austin-Houston club circuit. While he was on the road he started writing his own songs based on personal experience, a couple of which were picked up by Jerry Jeff Walker and released on disc in 1971 and 1973 going on to become FM radio hits. Other artistes who have had hits with his songs include Johnny Cash, Ricky Scaggs, Vince Gill, Brad Paisley and Rodney Crowell.

Guy has also collaborated with country superstars such as Emmylou Harris, Albert Lee and Rosanne Cash. His contribution to the country music scene was recognised in 2004 by the Nashville Songwriters Foundation's Hall of Fame and he was honoured with the Americana Music Association's Lifetime Achievement Award for Songwriting in 2005. As Mike Trotman of Empty Room Promotions says "he normally plays much bigger venues than the Old Town Hall" so this is a rare opportunity to see Guy's masterful and charismatic live performance in a more intimate setting.

Support on the night is from **Jace Everett** who has toured Europe extensively and was chosen by the Country Music Association for their "New from Nashville" initiative which took him to Dublin, Glasgow and London with Dierks Bentley. Jace has graduated from being a struggling musician with a host of different jobs including bartender, ditch digger and dump truck driver to gaining wider recognition on the European Country music scene and a contract with Sony BMG. On Friday the doors open at 8pm and tickets cost £25.00 in advance or £27.00 on the day. You can get more information about the gig and buy tickets at www.empty-rooms.com and find **Guy** and **Jace** on MySpace at guyclark and jaceeverett.

On a more local note, Steve from the **Suspects** tells me that their debut single 'Things We Do' reached number fifteen of the UK Indie Singles Chart during the first week of sales. Steve tells me that the band "are dead pleased, which has made all of the hard work that has gone before the release worthwhile." So if you want to help a local band stay in the charts then you can still purchase the CD at HMV in Luton, St Albans, Hemel Hempstead and Milton Keynes or download it from the major download sites including iTunes and Napster.

Next Thursday you can catch **George Anthony** at the Hat Factory in Bute St, Luton. George wowed TV audiences in the 1998 with his take on soul legend Al Green as a 'Stars in Their Eyes' grand finalist. The support is **Ricardo Smith** who puts his Soul Man and Big Band credentials away and goes acoustic with a selection of his original songs. Doors open at 8pm and tickets are £6, £4 concessions (Box Office 01582 878100).

26/Sept/2007 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

It's the Tyke Tyler's by George

Tomorrow night you can see three top local bands in the heart of Luton when **The Tyke Tyler Band**, **Marthas Fury** and **Gohills** play down at the George II in Bute St. The **Tyke Tyler Band** is a local three piece band that has been compared to Placebo, Stereophonics and the Vines. The line-up is Brian McCrossan on guitars and vocals, Richard Herity on drums and Martin Kinneavy on bass and vocals.



Earlier this year the band were one of only six bands out of over 600 entrants asked to perform at the Pringles Unsung Showcase final in London and, although they didn't win, they received high praise from the judges including Ian McCulloch (Echo and the Bunnymen) who described their sound as "awesome" (www.myspace.com/shinetheband). If you can't get down tomorrow night, they're also playing over at the Pleasure Unit in Bethnal Green in London on Monday as part of the End of the Trail Records new band showcase.

Marthas Fury is an idiosyncratic four piece band based in the Dunstable area with a something of a zany retro pop sensibility. The Furies are led from the front by **Genevieve** on bass and vocals with the mysterious **Aisling** on rhythm guitar and **James** and **Stouffer** on lead guitar and drums respectively to add a bit of grit to the mix (www.myspace.com/marthasfury). **The Gohills** are a four piece funk/rock band featuring; **Andy** on vocals and guitar, **Chris** on bass, **Darren** on lead guitar and recent addition **Phil** on drums (www.myspace.com/thegohills). You can find the George II on MySpace at george2ndluton.

Now that summer has fled and we're on the long slippery slope to the end of the year, various clubs and events that took time off for the hols are coming back on line. Up on the northern edge of Milton Keynes, the Wolverton Acoustic Club - one of the more professionally run 'open mic' nights - kicks off their autumn season on Sunday. The club place takes place on the last Sunday of the month and next month's is on October 28. The gig takes place at the Madcap in Creed Street, Wolverton (www.wolvertonacousticclub.co.uk).

Friday sees the start of the new season of Unicorn Ceilidhs at Hitchin Town Hall with the house band **Laughing Gravy** and caller **Andrew Swaine**. The interval entertainment is from the **Bedford Gallery Quire** as well as a Real Ale bar and the best sprung floor for miles around. See full details on the web at www.unicornceilidhs.org.uk.

On Friday week (Oct 5) you can get a different take on the staff of the Luton Borough Council when they put on a gig playing rock and pop hits from the 60s to today featuring some thirteen musicians and singers on stage. The show has been helped along by Luton promoter PDM and the Hat Factory and is set to raise funds for The Mayor's Charities. The event takes place at the Hat Factory in Bute St, for full details see the press release on the PDM site (www.893pc.com/lbcshows.html).

--

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> and on MySpace at lutonscene.