

3/Oct/2007 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

A New Star in the Firmament



On Saturday you will be able to see the first public gig of Queensbury School's latest musical prodigy when **Sarah Doe** will be performing at the Dunstable Creasy Park Football Club along with a bunch of other indie and acoustic acts from around the local music scene. Sarah is a singer / songwriter and guitarist who first started playing in 2002 and had her first performance at a school 'Stars in their Eyes' contest. Since then she has played at various concerts around the town and last year performed one of her own compositions at Queensbury School's Summer Concert which was also included on the fund raising 'On Q' CD. On Saturday she'll be opening the show and will be supported by a band made up of school friends; **Niki Dunne** on drums, **Ben Scrivener** on lead guitar, **Chris Doe** on keyboards and **Ryan Rockley** on bass guitar. According to her MySpace page (sarahdoe) they will be performing a set that will include five original songs including 'City Of Lies' which is this week's featured track on the **talkingmusic** MySpace page (lutonscene).

Saturday's event is being organised by local promoter **Blunt Promo** who started out by putting on shows at The Winston Churchill pub as part of their 'Friday night Rocks' nights and has progressed into putting on bigger shows in different local venues. Back at the beginning of August they put on the first of their all day events which featured ten local bands and this Saturday's event – which is being organised in conjunction with DTA Promotions – will feature **Elanors Tribute, The Friday Nights, Neuros, Space Junkie** and **Sarah Doe** and her band who will be opening the show. The show starts at 8pm and the entry is just £5 and open to all ages (bring ID if you want a drink!). Incidentally, Blunt Promo and DTA are currently recruiting street runners to help them out with promoting local events. If you are interested in helping out or you are a local band who would like a show then check them out on MySpace at bluntpromo.

I also heard that Filth Club and PDM music have gotten together to present the latest set of Vandalism Begins at Home (VB@H) showcase gigs. On Friday week (Oct 12) you can catch the first in a series of monthly showcases at the Arndale Social Club featuring **The Kindred, Penny Racers Last Journey** and **Rogue**. The doors open at 7:30pm and entrance is free and with a bar at club prices. These showcases are the result of a high level of cooperation between the promoters and the bands involved and they say that if anyone wants to get involved, find out more about VB@H or the showcases then you can either pick up a copy of the VB@H fanzine from Greenbank Music Village in Luton Hightown or the Hat Factory in Bute St, Luton. You can contact them by email at vbah.fanzine@googlemail.com or on the web at www.vbah.com.

10/Oct/2007 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Top Scot hits Hitchin

On Sunday **Dougie Maclean**, Scotland's pre-eminent singer / songwriter, plays over at the Sun Hotel in Hitchin when he makes a rare raid south of the border. Dougie is internationally renowned for his blend of lyrical, 'roots based' song writing and instrumental compositions and has built an reputation as songwriter, composer and extraordinary performer which has led to his songs being covered by hosts of artists and made "Caledonia" become one of Scotland's most popular contemporary songs. His music has been used in Hollywood films such as "The Last of the Mohicans" as well as for TV Dramas like BBC's "A Mug's Game". If you want to hear some great song writing and singing then don't miss this rare opportunity to see Dougie in an intimate environment. This gig will probably sell out so get your tickets (£13/£15) in advance by calling 01462-812391 or emailing goodmusic@hitchinfolkclub.co.uk. Carolyn Causton (Shave the Monkey) will be supporting (www.hitchinfolkclub.co.uk).

If you were hoping to see the return of popular Luton grunge band **Apex** at The Well in High Town on Friday then the gig has been called off due to the closure of the venue. **Apex**, who have been around for about three years now, have developed a big local following who are bound to be disappointed. Their music centres on powerful grunge riffs, and highly introspective lyrics and their stage act, with Chris "Tarquinn" Stevens at the head, is highly charged, powerful, and at times unpredictable. However all is not lost as you can catch them next Thursday (Oct 18) over at the Red Hart in Hitchin (28-29 Bucklersbury, Hitchin, SG5 1BG). You can check out the band and their sound on MySpace [apextoday](http://apextoday.com).

Dancers are in for a busy time over the next couple of weeks. On Friday you can catch the next Chiltern Ceilidh at St Mary's Social Centre (West St, Dunstable) when it takes a more acoustic turn with local band **MoonLighting** and caller **Jackie Allen**. Jackie Allen is a tremendously talented multi-instrumentalist and caller who is in Asha, Kitchen Girls and Token Women while **MoonLighting** is the acoustic version of **MoonDance** who have been described by the BBC as one of the UK's "high-profile" dance bands (www.chilternceilidhs.info). On Sunday you can see **Millrace** with caller **Barry Goodman** at Ickleford Village Hall when they perform a memorial gig for Paul Gunningham. Tickets are £10 (to include a fish & chip supper) and are available from Alan Hewson on 0845-1232658 or by email at alan@questor-cp.co.uk.

The following week the London based ceilidh band **Stömp** will be hosting a dance at The Raven Theatre in Linslade on Friday (October 19). The gig will be part of the Oxjam gig series which will be taking place all around the country and is Oxfam's most ambitious music event ever - musicians and groups all over the country will be performing music from classical to funk, punk to folk, and donating the proceeds to Oxfam to help end poverty. You can check out **Stömp** on the web at www.stompceilidh.co.uk.

17/Oct/2007 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

Shoes are back on the Road

Cris Riley - from local band **The Ruby Shoes** - tells me that they are back on the road again after a bit of a summer break. They are kicking off on Saturday at DTA's 'Shuffle Club' at the Luton Students' Union along with **The Kicks**. The Shoes play a mix of riff oriented 70's rock influenced by Led Zeppelin, Rolling Stones, T-Rex with a touch of glam rock from the likes of Bowie. Q Magazine described them as "Jaw dropping, foot tapping, bra strapping glam rock 'n' roll". On Saturday they'll be showcasing some new songs and Cris says "we'll be putting on a bit of a show as it is our first local Luton gig since March". The band will also be appearing on BBC 3 Counties Box Office Show tomorrow night (Thursday) between 8-10 so check them out.



I have more information about Friday's Oxjam gig at the Raven Theatre at Cedars Upper School, Mentmore Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard. The main act will be the **Stömp** Ceilidh Band with **Barry Goodman** calling and support from **Creative Hiatus**, **Hazy Jane**, **Redemption** and **The Bunker Hare Boys** at the beginning and during the interval. The gig is part of the Oxjam gig series which are taking place all around the country with proceeds going to Oxfam to help end poverty. The event starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £8 or £5 for under 18s and there's also a family group ticket (2 adults and up to 3 children) for £20. You can get tickets by calling 01525 371248 / 378262, by email at edmund.flach@btopenworld.com or from The Barista Sisters cafe in Market Square or Greenways in North Street Leighton Buzzard. You can check out **Stömp** on the web at www.stompceilidh.co.uk.

Matt from local metal band **Attika** tells me that they are recording an Extra Long EP which is due to hit the streets at the early in the New Year. He goes on to say that the band has had a few line up changes this year and that they are now more metal than ever. The initial response to the new line-up has been good with Keith from the Bedford Metal saying "**Attika** have an awesome new guitarist, he looks the part and fits in to the sound well" and "second to none drumming". **Attika** have made their name playing classic metal from the likes of Metallica and Nirvana along side an ever growing set of original material. Find them on MySpace as attikatheband.

Weekly music magazine NME and Love Music Hate Racism (LMHR) are spearheading a unique anti-racism campaign by releasing an exclusive free double album. Reacting against the BNP's active recruitment campaigning in schools, NME have teamed up with LMHR to put together the album which includes tracks from artists like Hard-Fi, Bloc Party, The Enemy, MIA, The View, Lethal Bizzle, New Young Pony Club, Fionn Regan, Seb Rochford, The Charlatans, Manu Chao, Billy Bragg, Babyshambles (and many more) who have given their time, and work, for free. Check out tomorrow's NME for details.

24/Oct/2007 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column



Make the Most in Dunstable

Next Thursday (Nov 1) you can see post punk four piece **The Most** when they play down at the New Greyhound in High St South in Dunstable. The band's sound is inspired by the great 70s punk bands as well more recent sounds from the indie scene. According to UK Unsigned "The group reflects a refreshing 70's punk sound" and "a true example of new punk in its most impressive form." The band features Dave on vocals and guitar, Tony on guitar, Ade on bass and Mark on drums and you can find more information on their MySpace page (iamthemo.st). Local duo **Down in Flames**

(downinflamesuk) are also playing on the night and you can catch some indie rock and roll from **The Suspects** (www.thesuspectsmusic.co.uk).

John Kirkpatrick - who is the UK's leading exponent of the Button Accordion, Melodeon and Anglo Concertina - is appearing down in the Maltings down in St Albans on Sunday. John K - as he is known in the business - is a contemporary of the likes of Richard Thompson, Ashley Hutchings, Martin Carthy and Steeleye Span to mention just a few and has been a mover and shaker in the electric and traditional folk music scene for as long as I can remember. Also appearing at Sunday's at the Maltings Arts Theatre are **Steph West** and **Nell McCleod** and tickets are £10.00 (£8.00 concessions). Call the Box Office on 01727 844222 for concert tickets.

During the day there will be a series of workshops at the Fleetville Community Centre with John Kirkpatrick leading a session on B/C/C# button accordions (11am) designed specifically for three row players, focussing on the instrument itself and the right hand keyboard in particular. In the afternoon (2.30pm) he will be concentrating on accordion left hand for both three row and piano accordion players and will focus on bass. Beginners and intermediate players are also catered for by a workshop from **Barry Goodman** (11am) which will teach new players some sound basic technique, while offering some challenge to "improvers". Getting away from the free reeds, **Steph West** will be giving a taster harp workshop from 2.30pm and **Jan Strapp** and **Kate Rouse** will be hosting a folk music session from 2pm. Ring 01727 852111 to book.

On Friday you can dance to the **Acoustivarks** when they play at this month's Unicorn Ceilidh in Hitchin Town Hall. The band is actually the Aardvark Ceilidh Band in acoustic mode and will be playing a varied selection of dance tunes, including some original compositions by caller **Pete Grassby**. Doors open at 7.30 for and entry is £8 (£4 for under 14s). Tickets are available at the door, or in advance from 01582 733113 / 724261.

By the time you read this column I'll be at this year's WOMEX World Music exposition in Seville so I hope to give a rundown of some the bands I see and hear there in next week's column.

31/Oct/2007 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

The Brian Heywood Column

A World of Music in Seville

I had a great time at WOMEX in Seville last week where I was helping out on the Musicians Union stand. It's impossible to sum up the largest World Music conference in



the world in a couple of hundred words but the highlight of the week was the **Shooglenifty** showcase on Saturday. This Scottish band has been around since 1990 and has been described by the Scotsman as a "groundbreaking force for well over a decade". Led by a frontline of electric banjo, fiddle and mandolin with an exceptionally tight rhythm section they also throw samples and loops into the mix to generate their trademark high energy, melodic grooves. You can find out more at www.shoogle.com.

There was also a packed programme of seminars and one that I found particularly interesting was given by Norwegian music journalist **Lars Are Nedland** who spoke of how the Norwegian Black Metal scene has drawn on their cultural heritage to produce a new genre called 'Folk Metal'. I am constantly amazed by how many genres of music refer back to the roots of Folk and World Music for inspiration, taking the music forward. If you want to check out the phenomenon then he mentioned the following bands **Lumsk** (Norway), **Glittertind** (Norway), **Orphaned Land** (Israel), **Otyg** (Sweden), **Skyclad** (Ireland) and **Rudra** (Singapore).

Meanwhile, back at the ranch; Miller from **Imicus** tells me that they are currently in hiding, writing new material ready for a follow up to this years "Inveigle" EP. However they will be playing a few shows in the locality between now and the end of the year. The first is on Friday at the Arndale Club for the next "Vandalism Begins at Home" showcase (along with **Psycho Manche**). The Imicus set will include new songs that will feature on the next release. If you can't make the gig on Friday then you can also see them at St Lukes in Leagrave (Dec 21) or over at Club 85 in Hitchin the following Friday. The band is also looking for new management, so if you have any ideas then email Miller@Imicusband.com. Get more information at myspace.com/Imicus and Imicusband.com.

If you want to see folk music and dance in a different light then check out **Laurel Swift's Morris Offspring** when they perform their new show 'Rising' on Saturday down at the Watersmeet Theatre in Rickmansworth. The new production is billed as "an unparalleled display of passionate and fiery dance" and is a full-length stage performance with live music, masks and giant puppets. The dances move through traditional formats to new ideas, from swirling forms with many bodies, to rapid paced stick dances and mesmerizing solos. The musicians include musicians John Dipper, Saul Rose, Jackie Oates, James Delarre and Matthew Keegan-Phipps. The show starts at 8pm and tickets are £14/£12 on the door. Call the Box office on 01923 711063 (11am to 3pm, Monday to Friday) or check it out on the web at www.watersmeet.co.uk.

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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> and on MySpace at lutonscene.