

## 2/Apr/2008 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *No None The Less but Metal gig carries on*

There's been a change to the line-up of PDM's Gig Room showcase Metal Special night at the Hat Factory in Bute St, Luton tomorrow (Thursday). The Watford based Metal / Progressive / Rock band **None The Less** have had to pull out as they have parted company with their old drummer. According to their MySpace blog, Jack had to leave the band due other commitments. The band stress that the parting has been amicable and that they wish him all the luck in the future in whatever he chooses to pursue. The good news is that 16 year old Mike Smith (from Ruislip) has joined the line up as the youngest member of the band, but not in time to be ready for tomorrow's gig, however PDM say that they'll be getting them back later in the year.



Stepping into the breach are Hardcore / Alternative / Metal outfit - **Psychomanche** - a six piece band hailing from Luton whose current line up has managed to hang together since February with the addition of a new bassist. Actually no-one has left the band as the former bass player is now sharing vocal duties, adding to their mix sheer brutality and melodic mastery. Also on stage will be **Senduri**, **Dr Slaggleberry** and **Pariah** to bring you a complete night of metal mayhem with doors opening at 8pm with entry £4 on the door or £3 in advance from the box office 01582 878100. There is no age restriction on this gig. For more information see the pdm:live link on [www.pdmmusic.com](http://www.pdmmusic.com).

In a somewhat different vein, you can catch this month's popular Jazz Jam tonight at the Hat Factory, with special guest singer Donna Canale. Doors open at 8pm with entry £3, £2 with an instrument with NUS card holders getting in free.

At the end of February I mentioned that The Horn pub and music in St Albans is a finalist for the 'Music Pub of the Year' award by the Publican Magazine. Well they tell me that they've snaffled the award, which is the equivalent of an Oscar in the pub sector. According to Caroline Nodder, Editor Publican Magazine, "To win represents the pinnacle of achievement for licensees and pub companies in the UK". The management found out that they had won at the awards ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel on Park Lane a couple of week's ago which was attended by 2,000 people from the licensed trade and was hosted by Alan Carr and Justin Lee Collins from TV's 'Friday Night Project' show. Hansi tells me that the award is the culmination of a seven-month rigorous judging process with hundreds of entries being reduced to a shortlist of 114 finalists in 19 categories. The management team (Hansi, Sam and Adrian) and all the staff of the venue would like to thank all the music fans in the area for their support over the years. See [www.thehorn.co.uk](http://www.thehorn.co.uk) for more information about their programme and to get onto their email list.

## 9/Apr/2008 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column



#### *DTA Go Dutch*

Metal fans should get down to the Students' Union on the Luton Campus of the University of Bedfordshire when DTA Promotions imports the Dutch progressive metal outfit **Textures**. Formed back in 2001 by guitarists Jochem Jacobs and Bart Hennephof along with drummer Stef Broks, bassist Dennis Aarts and synth maestro Richard Rietdijk they recorded their first album 'Polars' merging a polyrhythmic attack with soaring melodies. The CD was well received by the press and achieved an Essent Award for 'Most Promising Act' in 2004. The band then hit the road to rack up shows alongside the likes of The Dillinger Escape Plan, Meshuggah, Morbid Angel, Machine Head and Cult Of Luna as well as performances at Fury Fest and Lowlands.

The band's second album 'Drawing Circles' was released in 2006 and pushed the envelope of metal and hardcore to its limits with tracks such as 'Illumination' - a subtle exploration of Broadway

show tinged melody that showcases Eric Kalsbeek's diverse tonsils - sitting comfortably next to 'Regenesis' - a driving, complex mini-epic of thundering guitar work and guttural screams. The band then went on to storm the Dutch Eurosonic international industry showcase event and were chosen to play Holland's Live XS Award show, being nominated in three different categories. On Saturday the doors open 7.30pm and entry is £6 with tickets available online from Ticketweb ([www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk)).

There's quite a range of music around this week with no less than four gigs in a row at the George II pub in Bute St, Luton. Tonight you can see **Vessels**, **The Defeat** and **Drive Like Casey** while tomorrow night The Weight Presents Inertia Falls. Friday night features **Pirate Radio** along with **The Art Of Opposition** and **Science Vs Romance** while on Saturday you can catch the **Von Trapps**. The music starts at 8pm and entry is free (18+ venue).

Blues/rock fans can catch **The Cadillac Blues** at The Sportsman pub Croxley Green near Rickmansworth on Saturday. The band tell me that they are now back up to full strength with guitarist and songwriter **Kimberley Rew** joining **Coll Michaels**, **John Curtis** and **Roland Kerridge** for the fun. Kim Rew is perhaps best known for his band 'Katrina and the Waves' who had a big hit with "Walking on Sunshine" but on Saturday he'll be sticking with his roots and playing some classy blues/rock, with John and Roland's solid rhythm and Coll's laid back vocals to bring the classic material to life. You can get the full story and hear some sound clips on their website at [www.cadillacblues.co.uk](http://www.cadillacblues.co.uk) and you can contact the venue on 01923-443360.

On Sunday you can get a dose of British Folk Rock mixed with American Roots when **Cathryn Craig** and **Brian Willoughby** play over at the Sun Hotel in Hitchin. The duo's 'Anglicised Americana' blurs the musical boundaries and demonstrates Cathryn's wonderful voice supported by Brian's guitar wizardry. The doors open at 7:30pm and entry is £12 or £10 for members. For more information call Maureen on 01462 812391, email [goodmusic@hitchinfolkclub.co.uk](mailto:goodmusic@hitchinfolkclub.co.uk) or check them out on the web at [www.hitchinfolkclub.co.uk](http://www.hitchinfolkclub.co.uk).

## 16/April/2008 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Moths takeoff in Luton*

Tomorrow you can catch **Moths** ([myspace.com/mothsintheuk](http://myspace.com/mothsintheuk)), **Reverie** ([myspace.com/reverietheband](http://myspace.com/reverietheband)) and **Hey Jupiter** ([myspace.com/heyjupiterband](http://myspace.com/heyjupiterband)) at the Hat Factory in Bute St, Luton. The **Moths** were previously known as 'Dead Girl On Pavement' and decided to start afresh with a new name and a new bass player- Kieron Basquille - after Karina Rosenberg (vocals), Richie Woods (guitar) and Chriss Randall (guitar and all the behind the scenes stuff) decided that they wanted to strike out in a new musical direction. The doors open at 8pm and admission is £4 or £3 with a flyer or in advance (from the Hat Factory box office on 01582 878101). There are no age restrictions for this gig.



On Friday you're spoilt for choice with a 'Love Music, Hate Racism' benefit at the Hat Factory with **The Ruby Shoes** ([myspace.com/therubysshoes](http://myspace.com/therubysshoes)), **Drive Like Casey** ([myspace.com/drivelikecasey](http://myspace.com/drivelikecasey)), **The City Kings** ([myspace.com/thecitykings](http://myspace.com/thecitykings)) and **Adrian Abbott** ([myspace.com/adrianabbottmusic](http://myspace.com/adrianabbottmusic)). Both this gig and Thursday's are promoted PDM music which is Luton's only not-for-profit live music and music promotion organisation dedicated to supporting new bands and artists as they start out on their careers. The ticket price for this gig is a flat £5 with the PDM and band fees going to Love Music, Hate Racism. For more information about PDM check out [www.pdmusic.com](http://www.pdmusic.com) or [myspace.com/pdmpromo](http://myspace.com/pdmpromo).

Over at the Luton Students' Union you can a mega programme headlined by the four piece indie / acoustic band **Royston Jones** with support from **Shapes**, **Friday Nights**, **David Lloyd**, **Stephen Whiley**, **Chris Box** and **Adrian Abbott** (again!). **Shapes** are a local four piece Indie band who started gigging back in 2006 and have acquired quite a following. They've hit the airwaves as well, getting airplay from BBC Radio 1's Hue Stephenson on the BBC Introducing programme and playing live on the BBC Three Counties Box Office radio show. **The Friday Nights** are a new three piece band from Dunstable with Ska and indie influences and have played with the likes of The Displacements, Shapes, The Ruby Shoes and The Phettz. , **David Lloyd**, **Stephen Whiley**, **Chris Box** and **Adrian Abbott** are all singer songwriters from the local area. The doors open at 7pm and entry is £6, for more information see the DTA website [www.dtamusic.co.uk](http://www.dtamusic.co.uk).

I'm over in Australia at the moment for some gigs and I'm always interested to see what the local music scene is like and compare it to Luton, Dunstable and London. I had a chat to Roger Holdsworth who is a DJ on the popular PBS radio station here in Melbourne and he tells me that the live music is on the up-and-up in this part of downunder. The latest trend is for 'Shop Front Bars' which put on a broad range of styles with residencies being more common here. which allows a band or artist to build up a loyal following. One thing that strikes me is the incredible variety you get over here; ranging from rock, indie and punk to gypsy, world and other kinds of folk which I think is a good indication of a healthy music scene.

## 23/April/2008 The Scene (Luton News/Dunstable Gazette)

### The Brian Heywood Column

#### *Vipers Back in Town*

On Saturday you can get a rare chance to hear the **Imperial Vipers** playing on their home turf when they headline at the Students' Union in Luton. The Vipers have come a long way since a bunch of mates got together in 2003 to make the kind of music they love. Described as "street rock" by Anne Maria from Total Rock, the band has shared stages with the likes of the legendary Hanoi Rocks, Marky Ramone, Supergrass and has headlined at the Kone Funboard Festival and the 2004 World X-treme Sports Exhibition in Paris. The band's gritty rock'n'roll has already won them fans like Radio One's Colin Murray, XFM's Ian Camfield, Iron Maiden front man and BBC 6 Music DJ Bruce Dickinson as well as leading UK rock magazines Classic Rock and Kerrang!



Saturday's gig features no less than five bands, the others being; Heavens Basement, Alias, Elanors Tribute and Fate of a Stranger. This gig will be the debut of Alias, a five piece metal outfit made up from members of a number of local bands; This Mission, acoustic act Comic Boy, jazz outfit Claret Sky and hard rock group Sterile Profit. Guitarist Kevin Barton says, "With all of us coming from various musical backgrounds we have somehow managed to meld all these styles together to come up with a varied, yet contemporary sound". You can check out Alias on their MySpace page [aliasbanduk](http://aliasbanduk.myspace.com). The music kicks off at the Student Union at 7pm and tickets are £6 (available online from [www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk)). See the full details of all the bands at the DTA Promo website ([www.dtamusic.co.uk](http://www.dtamusic.co.uk)).

If you're looking for something a little out of the ordinary then check out the Andrea Magee Band. Andrea, who is also known as the Bubblegum Queen, is Luton born and bred and was regularly featured in the News/Gazette until the wanderlust took hold of her in 1995 and she took off to see the world. Her musical journey took her first to the coffee houses of Los Angeles for a year, then back to London on the way to Italy where she lived for three years, studying by day and strumming her guitar by night. The hard graft paid off and she is convinced that she's finally found her sound and has returned to the UK and found musicians to bring her songs to life.

Andrea's band includes musicians from Los Albertos, Martha Tilston and Phi-Life Cypher and features a rapper, violinist and saxophonist playing funk fusion which, according to the music editor of Latest 7, Jeff Hemmings: "It is not often that a skilled and original funk fusion band comes along". Andrea has already nabbed a slot on the 'Out Of The Ordinary Stage' at the Sunrise Festival ([www.sunrisecelebration.com](http://www.sunrisecelebration.com)) but she's angling to get a spot on the main stage with the likes of The Orb, The Beat and Bad Science etc. Andrea is an example of the type of 'lone gun' who may just be able to save the British music scene from drowning in its current ocean of mediocrity. Check her out on MySpace at [www.myspace.com/theandreamageeband](http://www.myspace.com/theandreamageeband) or call 07990 938982 for further information or bookings.

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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> and on MySpace at [lutonscene](http://lutonscene.myspace.com).